



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Yoshiki SASAI *et al.*

Appln. No.: 09/855,587

Group Art Unit: 1632

Filed: May 16, 2001

Examiner: Woitach, Joseph T

For: NOVEL DIFFERENTIATION INDUCING PROCESS OF
EMBRYONIC STEM CELL TO ECTODERMAL CELL AND ITS USE

DECLARATION

Commissioner for Patents
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Sir/Madam:

I, Eiichi Kobayashi, do declare and state that:

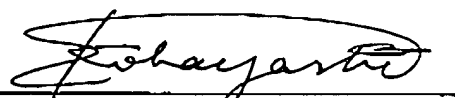
I graduated from the University of Tokyo, Faculty of Agriculture, Department in Agricultural Chemistry, having received a Master's Degree of Agriculture in March, 1992.

I understand the Japanese and English languages. Attachment is an accurate English translation made by me of Japanese patent application No. 2000-144059 filed on May 16, 2000.

I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date : December 2, 2004

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Eiichi Kobayashi

PATENT OFFICE
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This is to certify that the annexed is a true copy of
the following application as filed with this Office.

Date of Application: May 16, 2000

Application Number: Patent Application No. 2000-144059

Applicant(s): KYOWA HAKKO KOGYO CO., LTD.

June 8, 2001

Commissioner,
Patent Office

Shinichiro Ota

Issuance No. 2003-3046366

[Document]	Patent Application
[Reference No.]	P-34670
[Date of filing]	May 16, 2000
[Attention to]	Commissioner, Patent Office
[ITC]	C12N 5/02
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[Identification of Fees]	
[Prepayment Account No.]	092740
[Amount of Fees Payable]	21000
[List of Documents to Be Submitted]	
[Document]	Specification 1
[Document]	Drawing 1
[Document]	Abstract 1

(Document name)

Specification

(Title of the invention)

NOVEL DIFFERENTIATION INDUCING PROCESS OF
EMBRYONIC STEM CELL TO ECTODERMAL CELL AND ITS USE

(Scope of the claims)

(Claim 1) A method for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell, which comprises culturing the embryonic stem cell under non-aggregation conditions.

(Claim 2) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ectodermal cell is a cell capable of differentiating into a nervous system cell or an epidermal system cell.

(Claim 3) A method for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises culturing the embryonic stem cell under non-aggregation conditions.

(Claim 4) The method according to claim 3, wherein the ectoderm-derived cell is a nervous system cell or an epidermal system cell.

(Claim 5) The method according to claim 4, wherein the epidermal system cell is an epidermal cell.

(Claim 6) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said culturing is carried out in the presence of bone morphogenetic protein 4.

(Claim 7) The method according to claim 4, wherein the nervous system cell is a neural stem cell or a nerve cell.

(Claim 8) The method according to claim 7, wherein the nerve cell is a nerve cell selected from the group consisting of the following (a), (b), (c) and (d):

- (a) a dopaminergic neuron;
- (b) an acetylcholinergic neuron;
- (c) a γ -aminobutyrate neuron; and
- (d) a serotonergic neuron.

(Claim 9) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the non-aggregation conditions are conditions not mediating an embryoid body.

(Claim 10) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 9, which further comprises culturing under serum-free culture conditions.

(Claim 11) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein said culturing is carried out in the presence of a stroma cell-derived factor.

(Claim 12) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein said culturing is carried out in the presence of a stroma cell.

(Claim 13) The method according to claim 12, wherein the stroma cell is a stroma cell whose proliferation potency is deleted by a physicochemical treatment.

(Claim 14) The method according to claim 13, wherein the physicochemical treatment is selected from the group consisting of the following (a), (b) and (c):

- (a) a treatment with an antitumor agent;
- (b) a treatment by a radiation irradiation; and
- (c) a treatment for tissue fixation used in pathologic diagnosis.

(Claim 15) The method according to claim 14, wherein the antitumor agent is selected from the group consisting of mitomycin C, 5-fluorouracil, adriamycin and methotrexate.

(Claim 16) The method according to claim 14, wherein the treatment for tissue fixation used in pathologic diagnosis is selected from the group consisting of a microwave fixation, a rapid freeze-substitution fixation, a glutaraldehyde fixation, a p-formaldehyde fixation, a formalin fixation, an acetone fixation, a Van fixation, a periodic acid fixation, a methanol fixation and an osmic acid fixation.

(Claim 17) The method according to any one of claims 11 to 16, wherein the stroma cell is selected from the group consisting of the following (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g):

- (a) a fetal primary culture fibroblast;
- (b) an SIHM mouse-derived STO cell;
- (c) a mouse fetus-derived NIH/3T3 cell;
- (d) an M-CSF deficient mouse calvaria-derived OP9 cell;
- (e) a mouse calvaria-derived MC3T3-G2/PA6 cell;
- (f) an embryonic stem cell-derived stroma cell; and
- (g) a bone marrow mesenchymal stem cell-derived stroma cell.

(Claim 18) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 17, wherein the embryonic stem cell is selected from the group consisting of the following (a), (b) and (c):

- (a) an embryonic stem cell established by culturing an early embryo before implantation;
- (b) an embryonic stem cell established by culturing an early embryo produced by nuclear transplantation of the nucleus of a somatic cell; and

(c) an embryonic stem cell in which a gene on the chromosome of the embryonic stem cell of (a) or (b) is modified using a gene engineering technique.

(Claim 19) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein said culturing is carried out in the absence of retinoic acid.

(Claim 20) The method according to any one of claims 1 to 19, wherein the embryonic stem cell is differentiated into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell at an efficiency of 5% or more.

(Claim 21) A medium for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which is used in the method according to any one of claims 1 to 20.

(Claim 22) An agent for inducing differentiation of an ectodermal cell into an epidermal system cell, which comprises, as an active ingredient, bone morphogenetic protein 4.

(Claim 23) An agent for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises, as an active ingredient, a stroma cell which has activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, or a factor derived from the cell.

(Claim 24) The agent for inducing differentiation according to claim 24, wherein the stroma cell is the stroma cell according to any one of claims 13 to 17.

(Claim 25) A method for obtaining an antibody which specifically recognizes a stroma cell which has activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises using a stroma cell as an antigen.

(Claim 26) The method according to claim 25, wherein the stroma cell is a stroma cell according to any one of claims 13 to 17.

(Claim 27) An antibody which specifically recognizes a stroma cell which has activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which is obtained by the method according to claim 25 or 26.

(Claim 28) A method for obtaining an antigen recognized by the antibody according to claim 27, which comprises using the antibody.

(Claim 29) An antigen recognized by the antibody according to claim 27, which is obtained by the method according to claim 28.

(Claim 30) A medium for culturing a cell, which comprises the antigen according to claim 29.

(Claim 31) An ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which is induced by using the method according to any one of claims 1 to 20.

(Claim 32) A method for evaluating a substance relating to the regulation in a differentiation step from an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises: carrying out the method according to any one of claims 1 to 20 in the presence of a substance to be tested and the method in the absence of the substance to be tested; and comparing the differentiation step from an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell in the presence of the substance to be tested with that in the absence of the substance to be tested.

(Claim 33) A method for screening a substance relating to the regulation in a differentiation step from an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises: carrying out the method according to any one of claims 1 to 20 in the presence of a substance to be tested and the method in the absence of the substance to be tested; and comparing the differentiation step from an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell in the presence of a substance to be tested with that in the absence of the substance to be tested.

(Claim 34) A method for evaluating a substance relating to the regulation of the function of an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises: culturing the cell according to claim 31 in the presence of a substance to be tested and the cell in the absence of the substance to be tested; and comparing the function of an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell in the presence of the substance to be tested with that in the absence of the substance to be tested.

(Claim 35) A method for screening a substance relating to the regulation of the function of an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises: culturing the cell according to claim 31 in the presence of a substance to be tested and that in the absence of the substance to be tested; and comparing the function of the ectodermal cell or the ectoderm-derived cell in the presence of the substance to be tested with that in the absence of the substance to be tested.

(Claim 36) A medicament comprising a stroma cell having activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, or a factor derived from the cell.

(Claim 37) The medicament according to claim 36, wherein the stroma cell is a stroma cell according to any one of claims 13 to 17.

(Claim 38) A medicament comprising the antibody according to claim 27.

(Claim 39) A medicament comprising the antigen according to claim 29.

(Claim 40) A medicament comprising the ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell according to claim 31.

(Claim 41) The medicament according to any one of claims 36 to 40, which is a medicament for diagnosing, preventing and/or treating diseases caused by the ectoderm-derived cell.

(Claim 42) The medicament according to claim 41, wherein the diseases caused by the disorder of an ectoderm-derived cell are diseases caused by the disorder of a nervous system cell or an epidermal system cell.

(Claim 43) The medicament according to claim 42, wherein the diseases caused by the disorder of a nervous system cell are Alzheimer disease, Huntington chorea, Parkinson disease, ischemic cerebral disease, epilepsy, brain injury, vertebral injury, motor neuron disease, neurodegeneration disease, pigmentary retinal dystrophy, cochlear hearing loss, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or diseases due to a neurotoxin damage; and the diseases caused by the disorder of an epidermal system cell are burn, wound, healing of wound, compression gangrene or psoriasis.

(Claim 44) A method for immunologically detecting the antigen according to claim 29, which comprises using the antibody according to claim 27.

(Claim 45) A tissue immunostaining method of the antigen according to claim 29, which comprises using the antibody according to claim 27.

(Claim 46) A method for obtaining a stroma cell-derived factor which has activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises culturing an embryonic stem cell under non-aggregation conditions in the presence of a stroma cell and using, as an index, the activity of inducing differentiation of the embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell.

(Claim 47) The method according to claim 46, wherein the stroma cell is the stroma cell according to any one of claims 13 to 17.

(Detailed description of the invention)

(0001)

(Technical field to which the invention belongs)

The present invention relates to a method for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into a functional cell. More particularly, the present invention relates to a process for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an

ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell useful for cell medical treatment, the differentiation-induced cell and use thereof. Also, the present invention relates to a medium used in the above process, an antibody which specifically recognizes a stroma cell in the above process, an antigen recognized by the antibody and use thereof.

(0002)

(Background art)

In general, an embryonic stem cell means a cell which can be cultured *in vitro* and can also differentiate into all cells including germ cells when injected into the vacuole of an embryo before implantation, such as blastocyst, of other individual, and is called an embryonic stem cell or an ES cell.

(0003)

Relationship between the generation of the initial stage embryo and the embryonic stem cell is described below using mouse as an example.

While moving from the oviduct to the uterus, a mouse fertilized egg repeats its division into 2 cells, 4 cells and 8 cells, generates compaction in which adhesion among cells is increased when it becomes the 16-cell stage, and reaches the stage called morula where borders among cells become unclear. In addition, 3.5 days after fertilization, a space called blastocoel is formed inside the embryo and becomes blastocyst. The blastocyst of this stage comprises the outer trophectoderm layer and inner cell mass (ICM). The blastocyst is implanted onto the uterus wall spending at 4.5 to 5.5 days after fertilization. At the stage of implantation, surface cells facing the blastocoel in the inner cell mass are differentiated into primitive endoderm cells. A part of these cells separates from the embryo itself, migrates into inside of the trophectoderm layer and becomes parietal endoderm cells to form Reichert's membrane by secreting an extracellular matrix.

(0004)

On the other hand, the primitive endodermal cells around the embryonic part form a cell layer called visceral endoderm. These parietal and visceral endoderms then become a supporting tissue for protecting the fetus itself and exchanging nourishment and waste matter between it and the mother body. Cells of the inner cell mass, which form the fetus body in the future, proliferate and form a cell layer called primitive ectoderm. The primitive ectoderm is also called embryonic ectoderm or epiblast. Since the embryo after implantation grows into a cylindrical form as a whole, the embryo after 5.5 to 7.5 days of implantation is called egg cylinder. In half of the base side of the egg cylinder to the uterus, an extraembryonic tissue which forms the placenta

in the future is formed by differentiating from the trophoctoderm. After 6.5 days of fertilization, a groove called primitive streak appears on the primitive ectoderm layer, and, in this part, the primitive ectoderm enters into a space between the primitive ectoderm layer and the visceral endoderm layer by changing to a mesenchymal cell-like form and migrates from the primitive streak toward all directions to form embryonic mesoderm. In this cell layer, cells which become the definitive endoderm of the fetus body in the future are also contained.

(0005)

Thus, it is known that 3 germ layers of not only ectoderm but also mesoderm and endoderm of the fetus are produced from the primitive ectoderm, and that all tissues of the fetus are derived from the primitive ectoderm. Also, It has been found that cells of the nervous system and the epidermal system are formed from ectoderms, and the ectoderm destined to differentiate into nervous system cells is called neuroectoderm (neural ectoderm), and the ectoderm destined to differentiate into epidermal system cells is called non-neuroectoderm.

(0006)

Among the cell lineage in the embryo generation process described above, individual blastomere starting from fertilized egg to morula, cells of the inner cell mass in the blastocyst and cells constituting the primitive ectoderm layer have a totipotency and have properties as undifferentiated embryonic stem cells. When a primitive ectoderm starts its differentiation into each germ layer, most of its cells lose the totipotency, but a part of them is left as a primordial germ cell which takes part in transmitting genes to the next generation. When the primitive ectoderm is differentiated into each germ layer, the primordial germ cell migrates in the rear together with the embryonic mesoderm layer invaginating from the primitive streak and appears in a specific region of the extraembryonic mesoderm at the base of allantois. The primordial germ cell then migrates toward the gonad primordium and forms an ovum or a spermatozoon according to the sexual differentiation of gonad.

(0007)

The embryonic stem cell can be established by culturing the inner cell mass-constituting undifferentiated stem cell existing in the inside of blastocyst and frequently repeating dissociation and subculturing of the cell mass. It is known that the cell can repeat proliferation and subculture almost unlimitedly while maintaining its normal karyotype and has a pluripotency of differentiating into every type of cells just as the same as the inner cell mass.

(0008)

When an embryonic stem cell is injected into the blastocyst of other individual, it is mixed with the cell of inner cell mass of the host embryo and forms a chimeric individual by contributing to the formation of embryo and fetus. In an extreme case, an individual fetus body mostly composed of the only embryonic stem cell injected can be produced. Among chimeric individuals, an individual in which the injected embryonic stem cell has contributed to the formation of a primordial germ cell which will produce an egg or a sperm in the future is called germ line chimera, and since an individual derived from the injected embryonic stem cell can be obtained by crossing the germ line chimera, it has been confirmed that the embryonic stem cell has a totipotency of differentiating into all cells (*Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994); *Gene Targeting, A Practical Approach*, IRL Press at Oxford University Press (1993); *Biomannual Series 8, Gene Targeting, Production of Mutation Mouse Using ES Cell*, Yodo-sha (1995)).

(0009)

When the inner cell mass of blastocyst is cultured like the usual primary culture, it directly differentiates into a fibroblast-like cell in most cases. In order to culture it while maintaining undifferentiated conditions, it is necessary in general to use a primary fibroblast cell produced from the fetus or STO cell derived from an SIHM mouse as a feeder cell (*Gene Targeting, A Practical Approach*, IRL Press at Oxford University Press (1993), *Biomannual Series 8, Gene Targeting, Production of Mutation Mouse Using ES Cell*, Yodo-sha (1995)). By keeping an appropriate cell density on the feeder cell and repeating dissociation and subculture of the cell mass while frequently exchanging the culture medium, it becomes possible to maintain the conditions while keeping properties of the undifferentiated stem cell (*Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994)).

(0010)

As a factor for maintaining undifferentiated conditions of an embryonic stem cell, LIF (leukemia inhibitory factor) has been identified (A.G. Smith and M.L. Hooper, *Dev. Biol.*, 121, 1 (1987); A.G. Smith *et al.*, *Nature*, 336, 688 (1988); P.D. Rathjen *et al.*, *Genes Dev.*, 4, 2308 (1990)), and it has been reported that an embryonic stem cell having a totipotency can be isolated and cultured without using a feeder cell when LIF is added to the culture medium (J. Nichols *et al.*, *Development*, 110, 1341

(1990); S. Pease *et al.*, *Dev. Biol.*, 141, 344 (1990)). Also, it has been shown that the addition of a family molecule of interleukin 6 sharing a subunit gp130 of LIF receptor as the common receptor is effective, instead of adding LIF itself to the culture medium (D.P. Gearing and G. Bruce, *New Biol.*, 4, 61 (1992); J.I. Conover *et al.*, *Development*, 119, 559 (1993); C. Piquet-Pellorce *et al.*, *Exp. Cell Res.*, 213, 340 (1994); D. Pennica *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 270, 10915 (1995)).

(0011)

In addition, since it has been reported that an embryonic stem cell capable of contributing to the formation of a germ line cell by maintaining undifferentiated conditions of the embryonic cell was established by jointly using interleukin 6 capable of directly activating gp130 and a soluble interleukin 6 receptor (K. Yoshida *et al.*, *Mech. Dev.*, 45, 163 (1994); J. Nichols *et al.*, *Exp. Cell Res.*, 215, 237 (1994); Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 51060/95, It has been found that intracellular signal transduction from gp130 is playing an important role in maintaining the pluripotency and undifferentiation of the embryonic stem cell. This is supported also by a fact that normal generation of initial stage embryo is observed in a deficiency mouse whose LIF gene and LIF receptor gene were destroyed using gene targeting techniques (C.L. Stewae *et al.*, *Nature*, 359, 76 (1992); J.L. Escary *et al.*, *Nature*, 363, 361 (1993); M. Li *et al.*, *Nature*, 378, 724 (1995); C.B. Ware *et al.*, *Development*, 121, 1283 (1995)), but fetal death occurs during a period from the fetal age of 12.5 days to birth in a mouse whose gp130 gene was destroyed (K. Yoshida *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 93, 407 (1996)).

(0012)

Since the first establishment of an embryonic stem cell in mice (M.J. Evans *et al.*, *Nature*, 292, 154 (1981); G.R. Martin, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 78, 7634 (1981)), methods for establishing efficient embryonic stem cells such as methods for establishing embryonic stem cells in non-mice (U.S. Patent 5,453,357; U.S. Patent 5,670,372) have been studied, and embryonic stem cells have so far been established in rat (P.M. Iannaccone *et al.*, *Dev. Biol.*, 163, 288 (1994)), in domestic fowl (B. Pain *et al.*, *Development*, 122, 2339 (1996); U.S. Patent 5,340,740; U.S. Patent 5,656,479)), in pig (M.B. Wheeler, *Reprod. Fertil. Dev.*, 6, 563 (1994); H. Shim *et al.*, *Biol. Reprod.*, 57, 1089 (1997)), in monkey (J.A. Thomson *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 92, 7844 (1996)) and in human (J.A. Thomson *et al.*, *Science*, 283, 1145 (1998); M.J. Shamblo *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 95, 13726 (1998)).

(0013)

It is known that a teratoma in which various tissues are mixed is formed when an embryonic stem cell is transplanted, e.g., under the skin of an animal of the same line of the embryonic stem cell (*Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994)).

Also, it has been reported that, in *in vitro* culturing, various cells such as endodermal cells, ectodermal cells, mesodermal cells, blood cells, endothelial cells, cartilage cells, skeletal muscle cells, smooth muscle cells, heart muscle cells, glial cells, nerve cells, epithelial cells, melanocytes and keratinocytes can be formed by inducing differentiation through the formation of a cell mass called embryoid body (hereinafter referred to as "EB") in which embryonic stem cells are once aggregated to form a pseudo-embryonic state (P.D. Rathjen *et al.*, *Reprod. Fertil. Dev.*, 10, 31 (1998)). However, in the differentiation induction by this culturing method, spontaneous differentiation is generated by the formation of cell aggregation mass and, as a result, appearance of the intended cell is observed. Accordingly, it does not result in the efficient induction of a specified cell group and appearance of a variety of tissue cells is simultaneously observed.

(0014)

Various attempts have been made for methods for efficiently inducing differentiation of nervous system cells from the embryonic stem cell.

It has been reported that expression of a transcription factor Pax3 and neurofilament important for the differentiation of nervous system cells is significantly increased when culturing of the stem cell after formation of EB is continued using a medium supplemented with NGF (nerve growth factor) on a glass dish coated with poly-L-lysine or laminin (G. Yamada *et al.*, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 199, 552 (1994)). Based on the information that differentiation of an EC cell which will be described later into nervous system is accelerated by retinoic acid treatment (E.M.V. Jones-Villeneuve *et al.*, *J. Cell Biol.*, 94, 253 (1982); G. Bain *et al.*, *BioEssays*, 16, 323 (1994)), its effect on embryonic stem cells has also been examined, and it has been reported that a neuron-like cell which generates action potential by developing axons appears at a high ratio of about 40%, when EB is cultured for 4 days in the presence of retinoic acid and then treated with trypsin to carry out monolayer culturing, and that expression of class III tubulin, neurofilament M subunit, GAP-43 (growth-associated protein-43) as a substrate of nerve-specific calmodulin binding kinase C, γ -aminobutyric acid (hereinafter referred to as "GABA") receptor, NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartate) receptor and synapsin is observed in this cell at a protein level, and expression of

neurofilament L subunit, glutamic acid receptor, tyrosine hydroxylase, a transcription factor Brn-3, GFAP (glial fibrillary acidic protein) and a GABA synthesizing enzyme GAD (glutamic acid decarboxylase) is observed at a mRNA level (G. Bain *et al.*, *Dev. Biol.*, 168, 342 (1995); F.A. Michael *et al.*, *J. Neurosci.*, 16, 1056 (1996)).

(0015)

Since it is known that Brn-3 is expressed in central nervous system (X. He *et al.*, *Nature*, 340, 35 (1989)), and GAP-43 is expressed in nerve axon (L.I. Benowitz and A. Routtenberg, *Trends Neurosci.*, 20, 84 (1997)), MAP-2 is expressed in nerve dendrite (L.I. Binder *et al.*, *Ann. NY Acad. Sci.*, 76, 145 (1986)), GFAP is expressed in glial cell (A. Bignami *et al.*, *Brain Res.*, 43, 429 (1972)), GABA receptor and GAD are expressed in inhibitory nerve (Y. Chang and D.I. Gottlieb, *J. Neurosci.*, 8, 2123 (1988)) and glutamic acid receptor and NMDA receptor are expressed in excitatory nerve, it is shown that signals of differentiation into various nervous system cells are simultaneously transmitted when the differentiation is induced using retinoic acid.

(0016)

Also, it has been reported that differentiating induction to nervous cells was not observed when retinoic acid was simply allowed to react directly with embryonic stem cells without mediating the interaction of cells by EB formation (H.G. Slager *et al.*, *Dev. Gen.*, 14, 212 (1993)). It has been reported that, when 10^{-7} mol/l retinoic acid was allowed to react with monolayer-cultured embryonic stem cells, expression of GAP-43 was observed in about 50% of the cells 3 days thereafter, and expression of neurofilament-165 (S.H. Yen and K.L. Fields, *J. Cell Biol.*, 88, 115 (1981)) in less than 5% of the cells 4 to 5 days thereafter, both at protein level, but most of the GAP-43 positive cells showed an endodermal cell-like form (W.G. van Inzen *et al.*, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta.*, 1312, 21 (1996)). It has been reported that a part of the GAP-43 positive cells show a glial cell-like morphology and about half thereof are neurofilament-165 positive cells, but both of the GAP-43 and neurofilament-165 have lower staining degree by antibody staining than the nervous cells induced by retinoic acid treatment after EB formation (W.G. van Inzen *et al.*, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta.*, 1312, 21 (1996)). Thus, it has been confirmed that the interaction among cells by EB formation is necessary for the efficient differentiation induction of nervous system cells.

(0017)

In addition, it has been reported that, when action potential of the cells having glial cell-like morphology was measured using a patch clamp method, generation of the potential by 5-HT (5-hydroxytryptamin)-, GABA-, kainic acid-,

glutamic acid-, dopamine- or carbachol-stimulation was observed in about half of the examined cells, but generation of action potential by carbachol-stimulation was not observed in the neuron-like cells induced by retinoic acid treatment after EB formation, used as a control, instead, generation of action potential by noradrenaline-stimulation was observed, thus showing that the interaction among cells by EB formation is also important for the determination of the direction of differentiation of nerve cells (W.G. van Inzen *et al.*, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta.*, 1312, 21 (1996)). It is known that the cell layer on the EB surface differentiates into a primitive endoderm-like form in the EB formation by cell aggregation and it is considered that the differentiation is induced by a certain interaction between the cell layer and inner undifferentiated cells, but its factor has not specifically been identified (P.D. Tathjen *et al.*, *Reprod. Fertil. Dev.*, 10, 31 (1998)).

(0018)

Thereafter, as a result of further detailed analysis of the effect of retinoic acid on embryonic stem cells, it has been found that, when EB formed in a medium supplemented with retinoic acid is cultured in a dish for tissue culture, a nestin-positive precursor cell common for neuron and glial cells firstly appears, and then cells differentiated into GABAergic nerve cells, cholinergic nerve cells, GFAP positive astrocytes and O4 positive (M. Schachner *et al.*, *Dev. Biol.*, 83, 328 (1981)) oligodendrocytes appear (A. Fraichard *et al.*, *J. Cell Sci.*, 108, 3181 (1995)).

(0019)

Differentiation of neuron and glial cells from nestin-positive common precursor cells in the living body has been suggested by a labeling test using retrovirus (U. Lendahl *et al.*, *Cell*, 60, 585 (1990); J. Price *et al.*, *Development Supplement*, 2, 23 (1991); J. Price *et al.*, *Brain Pathol.*, 2, 23 (1992)), and then confirmed by the isolation of a precursor cell existing in the brain of the living body as a nervous system stem cell (S.J. Morrison *et al.*, *Cell*, 88, 287 (1997); R.D.G. McKay, *Science*, 276, 66 (1997)).

However, when retinoic acid is used for the differentiation induction of an embryonic stem cell, it is used at a markedly higher concentration (10 to 100 times) than the physiologically existing concentration. Since the use of retinoic acid at a concentration higher than the physiologically existing concentration is disliked from the toxicity point of view, it is difficult to use the obtained cell in transplantation. Accordingly, attempts have been made to induce an embryonic stem cell into a nervous system cell under conditions more close to the physiological conditions without using retinoic acid.

The following has been reported. A nestin-positive and fatty acid binding protein (which is expressed in the brain)-positive (A. Kurtz *et al.*, *Development*, 120, 2637 (1994)) nerve epithelial cell-like precursor cell (neuroepithelial precursor cell) is induced, when EB formed by 4 days of suspension culturing is adhered onto a tissue culture dish by 1 day of culturing and then cultured for 5 to 7 days using an ITSFn medium comprising insulin, transferrin, selenium chloride and fibronectin (A. Rizzino and C. Growley, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 77, 457 (1980)), and the precursor cell grows keeping as the precursor cell when cultured using an mN3 serum-free medium comprising bFGF (basic fibroblast growth factor) and laminin, but it differentiates into a central nervous system cell and a glial cell when cultured using the medium from which bFGF is removed, and synaptogenesis of excitatory nervous system and inhibitory nervous system is observed when culturing is continued using a serum-supplemented medium (S. Okabe *et al.*, *Mech. Dev.*, 59, 89 (1996)).

(0020)

A possibility for the nervous system cell induced *in vitro* in this manner to function normally in the living body has also been examined.

It has been observed that when the mouse epithelial cell-like precursor cell induced using the ITSFn medium is transplanted into the cerebral ventricle of a rat of 16 to 18 days of fetal age, the transplanted precursor cell migrates to be incorporated by the brain tissue and differentiates into a nerve cell, an astrocyte and an oligodendrocyte, but they cannot be distinguished from the host cell morphologically (O. Brustle *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 94, 14809 (1997)). However, formation of teratoma tissues which are not observed in the original tissue is observed in the transplanted region, such as formation of a neural tube-like structural body actively repeating cell division and a small cluster of alkaline phosphatase positive undifferentiated cells.

(0021)

Formation of such teratoma tissues has also been observed in the transplantation of a nervous system precursor cell induced from embryonic stem cell using retinoic acid (J. Dinsmore *et al.*, *Cell Transplant.*, 5, 131 (1996); T. Deacon *et al.*, *Exp. Neurol.*, 149, 28 (1998)).

Thereafter, it has been reported that repair of myelin sheath was observed without forming teratoma, when a precursor cell of a glial cell was induced from embryonic stem cells and the glial precursor cell was transplanted into the brain or spinal cord of a rat congenitally lacking myelin sheath (O. Brustle *et al.*, *Science*, 285, 754 (1999)). In this transplantation, a further differentiated glial cell precursor cell

was induced from the above-mentioned nerve epithelial cell-like precursor cell induced using an ITSFn medium after the EB formation and used in the transplantation.

(0022)

That is, it is shown that the cell differentiation-induced in this manner can be used in the transplantation, because differentiation into a glial precursor cell can be induced by culturing the induced nerve epithelial cell-like precursor cell for 5 days on a dish coated with polyornithine in a medium containing insulin, transferrin, progesterone, putrescine, selenium chloride, FGF2 (fibroblast growth factor 2) and laminin, peeling the cells using Hanks' buffer which does not contain calcium and magnesium, subculturing the cells at a cell density of 1/5 in a medium containing FGF2 and EGF (epidermal growth factor) and then, when the cells reached confluent, continuing the subculture at a cell density of 1/5 in a medium comprising FGF2 and PDGF-AA (platelet-derived growth factor-AA). It has been found that the cell differentiation-induced in this manner is a glial precursor cell, because it is A2B5-positive (M.C. Raff *et al.*, *Nature*, 303, 390 (1983)) and its differentiation into an astrocyte and an oligodendrocyte is observed *in vitro* when cultured using a medium which does not comprise FGF2 and EGF.

(0023)

Regarding cells having functions similar to the embryonic stem cell, their relationships with the embryonic stem cell are described below.

Various embryonal carcinoma cells (EC cells) have been established from a malignant teratoma (teratocarcinoma), as cell lines having a pluripotency like the case of an embryonic stem cell (M.J. Evans, *J. Embryol. Exp. Morph.*, 28, 163 (1972)).

These cells are considered to be cells having the properties of an embryonic stem cell as an undifferentiated stem cell, because they express a gene to be used as a marker of an embryonic stem cell (E.G. Bernstine *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 70, 3899 (1973); S.B. Diwan and L.C. Steven, *J. Natl. Cancer Inst.*, 57, 937 (1976); D. Solter and B.B. Knowles, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 75, 5565 (1978); B.A. Hosler *et al.*, *Mol. Cell. Biol.*, 9, 5623 (1989); S.C. Pruitt, *Development*, 120, 37 (1994)), they are capable of differentiating into various cells *in vitro* (G.R. Martin and M.J. Evans, *Cell*, 6, 467 (1975); G.R. Martin and M.J. Evans, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 72, 1441 (1975); M.W. McBurney, *J. Cell. Physiol.*, 89, 441 (1976)), teratoma is formed from various tissues by their transplantation into congenic individuals (L.J. Kleinsmith and G.B. Pierce, *Cancer Res.*, 24, 797 (1964)), they form chimeric individuals by contributing to fetus formation when injected into a blastocyst (B. Mintz and K. Illmensee, *Proc. Natl.*

Acad. Sci. USA, 72, 3538 (1975); V.E. Papaioannou *et al.*, *Nature*, 258, 70 (1975); M.J. Dewey *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 74, 5564 (1977)) and, although it is extremely rare, an example is reported on an embryonal carcinoma cell line capable of producing a germ line chimera (T.A. Stewart and B. Mintz, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 78, 7634 (1981)).

(0024)

Also, it was shown that a cell line of a cell analogous to an embryonic stem cell appeared when bFGF was added in culturing a primordial germ cell, and was established as an EG cell (embryonic germ cell) (Y. Matsui *et al.*, *Cell*, 70, 841 (1992); J.L. Resnic *et al.*, *Nature*, 359, 550 (1992)). It has been found that this EG cell is capable of contributing to the formation of a germ line chimera (C.L. Stewart *et al.*, *Devel. Biol.*, 161, 626 (1994); P.A. Labosky *et al.*, *Development*, 120, 3197 (1994)) and has the properties as the undifferentiated stem cell possessed by the embryonic stem cell. Since undifferentiated stem cells and germ cells have fairly common properties, it is considered that they can be mutually converted relatively easily by changes in the controlling conditions of proliferation and differentiation.

(0025)

On the other hand, with the advance in developmental engineering, possibility of preparing an embryonic stem cell of individual human has been reported. Since the creation of a sheep, Dolly, as a somatic cell nucleus-derived clone individual for the first time in an mammal by Wilmut *et al.* in 1997 (Wilmut *et al.*, *Nature*, 385, 810 (1997)), creation of a cloned calf using the nucleus of a fetal cell (J.B. Cibelli *et al.*, *Science*, 280, 1256 (1998)), a cloned calf using the nucleus of a skin, muscle, ear capsule, oviduct or proligerous cumulus cell (A. Iritani, *Protein, Nucleic Acid and Enzyme*, 44, 892 (1999)), a cloned goat (A. Baguisi *et al.*, *Nature Biotechnology*, 17, 456 (1999)), a cloned mouse using the nucleus of proligerous cumulus cell (T. Wakayama *et al.*, *Nature*, 394, 369 (1998)), a cloned mouse using a cell of male tail (T. Wakayama *et al.*, *Nature Genetics*, 22, 127 (1999)) and a cloned mouse using the nucleus of embryonic stem cell (T. Wakayama *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 96, 14984 (1999); W.M. Rideout III *et al.*, *Nature Genetics*, 24, 109 (2000)) has been reported, thus showing a possibility of creating cloned individuals of mammals by introducing the nucleus of a somatic cell into enucleated oocytes. Since it is possible to prepare an embryonic stem cell of individual human by combining this nucleus transplantation technique with a technique for establishing the embryonic stem cell, a possibility of applying it to organ plantation as a cell medical treatment has been

pointed out (R.P. Lanza *et al.*, *Nature Medicine*, 5, 975 (1999)). Also, it has been pointed out that it is possible to carry out more effective gene therapy by applying gene manipulation to an embryonic stem cell and to modify histocompatibility antigens (P.D. Rathjen *et al.*, *Reprod. Fertil. Dev.*, 10, 31 (1998)).

(0026)

Next, effectiveness of the cell medical treatment in organ transplantation is described with examples.

Parkinson disease is a chronic progressive disease mainly caused by the degeneration of dopaminergic neurons of substantia nigra corpus striatum. A perlingual therapy mainly using L-DOPA (L-dihydroxyphenylalanine) has conventionally been carried out, but since it is necessary to carry out its internal use for a prolonged period of time, its effect gradually attenuates in many patients who then will suffer from side effects such as wearing off phenomenon, dyskinesia and the like. Accordingly, development of more effective therapeutic methods has been attempted, and a treatment for transplanting an abortion fetal brain to patients of Parkinson disease has been started. In the whole world, several hundred cases of abortion fetal brain transplantation treatment have so far been carried out. Recently, a double blindfold test on the transplantation of abortion fetal brain cells was carried out in the United States for 40 patients of Parkinson disease, and its usefulness was confirmed. In addition, a case has been reported in which the transplanted cell was fixed for 10 years or more and the transplanted cell formed a synapse with corpus striatum in some patients who underwent such an abortion fetal brain cell transplantation. Thus, it has been understood that the cell treatment for transplanting the brain of abortion fetus shows high efficiency for Parkinson disease, but a protest against the use of abortion fetuses is strong due to ethical problems. In addition, since close to 10 fetuses are practically required for the treatment of one patient, it meets with a great obstacle for its realistic application to the therapy. Accordingly, concern has been directed toward the development of a method for preparing a dopaminergic neuron in a large amount by a commonly acceptable method.

(0027)

(Problems to be solved by the invention)

In view of these backgrounds, development of a method for inducing differentiation of a target functional cell selectively and efficiently from an undifferentiated stem cell which can be cultured while maintaining its pluripotency has been drawing attention, and various attempts have been made thereon. However,

development of a method for efficiently inducing differentiation of a cell group without accompanying formation of teratoma is not successful yet in many functional cells. Also, induction of a target functional cell under an artificially controlled physiological environment, such as culture conditions which do not use serum or retinoic acid, is desired from the viewpoint of cell medical treatment, but such a method is not known. Particularly, a method for obtaining an ectoderm-derived cell, specifically a dopaminergic neuron having normal functions, by efficient differentiation induction from an undifferentiated stem cell is important and desired from the viewpoint of the medical treatment of patients of brain diseases including Parkinson disease, but such a method has not been developed yet.

(0028)

An object of the present invention is to provide a method for inducing differentiation of an ectodermal cell and an ectoderm-derived cell, applicable to cell and organ transplantation for medical treatments, selectively and efficiently from an embryonic stem cell, the differentiation-induced cell and use thereof. Also, another object of the present invention is to provide a medium used in the method for differentiation induction, an antibody which specifically recognizes a stroma cell to be used in the differentiation induction process and a method for producing the antibody, an antibody obtained thereby, a method for obtaining an antigen recognized by the antibody, an antigen obtained thereby and use thereof.

(0029)

(Means to solve the problem)

As a result of intensive studies on various culture conditions capable of inducing differentiation of embryonic stem cells, the present inventors have succeeded in finding a selective and efficient method for inducing differentiation of an ectodermal cell and an ectoderm-derived cell from embryonic stem cell, thereby resulting in the accomplishment of the present invention.

(0030)

The present invention relates to the following (1) to (47).

(1) A method for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell, which comprises culturing the embryonic stem cell under non-aggregation conditions.

(0031)

The embryonic stem cell include those cells which can be cultured *in vitro* and have a pluripotency capable of differentiating into all cells constituting the living

body. Examples include (a) an embryonic stem cell of, e.g., a mammal established by culturing an early embryo before implantation, and specific examples include an ES cell established from an early embryo-constituting inner cell mass, an EG cell established from a primordial germ cell, a cell isolated from a cell group (e.g., primitive ectoderm) having a pluripotency of an early embryo before implantation and a cell obtained by culturing such a cell. Since it is known that an EC cell established from a malignant teratoma shows properties similar to those of the ES cell, it is included in the embryonic stem cell of, e.g., a mammal established by culturing an early embryo before implantation in a broad sense. The embryonic stem cell according to the present invention includes the embryonic stem cell of (a), (b) an embryonic stem cell established by culturing an early embryo produced by nuclear transplantation of the nucleus of a somatic cell and (c) an embryonic stem cell in which a gene on the chromosome of the embryonic stem cell of (a) or (b) is modified using a gene engineering technique.

(0032)

According to the present invention, the ectodermal cell include germ layer cells comprising a cell having a pluripotency capable of differentiating into a nervous system cell or an epidermal system cell. Examples include a fetal ectodermal cell differentiated from a primitive ectoderm.

(2) The method according to (1), wherein the ectodermal cell is a cell capable of differentiating into a nervous system cell or an epidermal system cell.

(3) A method for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises culturing the embryonic stem cell under non-aggregation conditions.

According to the present invention, the ectoderm-derived cell includes functional cells which are differentiated from an ectodermal cell and constitute the living body. Specific examples include nervous system cells and epidermal system cells.

(4) The method according to (3), wherein the ectoderm-derived cell is a nervous system cell or an epidermal system cell.

Examples of the nervous system cell include a neural stem cell, a nerve cell, a cell of neural tube, a cell of neural crest and the like.

(5) The method according to (4), wherein the epidermal system cell is an epidermal cell.

(0033)

The method of the present invention is used as a method for inducing an ectodermal cell into an epidermal system cell.

The skin comprises an ectoderm-derived epithelial tissue epidermis and a mesoderm-derived connective tissue dermis, and the epidermal cell is defined as an epithelial cell which constitutes the epidermis. The epidermis basically comprises a keratinized stratified squamous epithelium comprising, from the dermis toward the outer surface, stratum basale, stratum spinosum, stratum granulosum, stratum lucidum and stratum corneum. The epidermal cell is classified using morphology of the cell and expression mode of keratin filament as indexes. Since keratins 8 and 18 are expressed at the early stage of development, they are used as a marker of an epithelial cell at the early fetal period (R.G. Oshima *et al.*, *Dev. Bio.*, 99, 447 (1983)). Keratin 19 is used as a marker of an epithelial cell in a fetus (P.C. Stasiak & E.B. Lane, *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 15, 10058 (1987)). Keratins 5 and 14 are used as a marker of an epithelial cell which constitutes the stratum basale of epidermis (E. Fuchs & H. Green, *Cell*, 19, 1033 (1980)). The epidermal cell during keratinization is called keratinocyte, and expression of keratins 5 and 14 decreases as the keratinization progresses but expression of keratins 1 and 10 increases instead (E. Fuchs & H. Green, *Cell*, 19, 1033 (1980); C. Bagutti *et al.*, *Dev. Biol.*, 179, 184 (1996)).

Epidermal system cells, particularly epidermal cells, can be identified by staining with an antibody against each of these keratins or an antibody against E cadherin which is a marker of non-neuroectodermal cells or by detecting mRNA for these keratin proteins.

Differentiation induction into the epidermal cell of the stratum basale having high cell division ability can be suitably carried out by the method of the present invention.

(6) The method according to any one of (1) to (5), wherein said culturing is carried out in the presence of bone morphogenetic protein 4.

(7) The method according to (4), wherein the nervous system cell is a neural stem cell or a nerve cell.

(0034)

The nerve cell means a cell which functions to receive a stimulus from other nerve cells or stimulus receptor cells and transmit the stimulus to other nerve cells, muscle or glandular cells.

The nerve cell is classified based on the difference in the neurotransmitter produced by the nerve cell, specifically, based on, e.g., each neurotransmitter and

synthase of the neurotransmitter. The neurotransmitter includes both of peptide and non-peptide substances. The non-peptide neurotransmitter includes dopamine, noradrenaline, adrenaline, serotonin, acetylcholine, γ -aminobutyric acid and glutamic acid. Dopamine, noradrenaline and adrenaline are called catecholamine.

Examples of nerve cells classified by these neurotransmitters include dopaminergic neurons, acetylcholinergic neurons, γ -aminobutyrategic neurons, serotonergic neurons, noradrenalinergic neurons, adrenalinergic neurons, glutamatergic neurons and the like.

(0035)

The catecholaminergic neurons express tyrosine hydroxylase in common, and the noradrenalinergic neurons and the adrenalinergic neurons express dopamine- β -hydroxylase in common. Also, phenylethanolamine N-methyltransferase is specifically expressed in the noradrenalinergic neurons, tryptophan hydroxylase is specifically expressed in the serotonergic neurons, choline acetyltransferase is specifically expressed in the acetylcholinergic neurons and glutamate decarboxylase is specifically expressed in the γ -aminobutyrategic neurons. Each of nerve cells can be distinguished by examining the expression of mRNAs encoding these enzymes. However, no enzyme specifically distinguishing glutamatergic neurons has not been known.

(0036)

On the other hand, examples of the peptide neurotransmitter include adrenocorticotrophic hormone (corticotropin (ACTH)), $\alpha\alpha\gamma\beta$ -lipotropin, α -melanin cell stimulating hormone (MSH), α -endorphin, β -endorphin, γ -endorphin, methionine enkephalin (Met-enkephalin), leucine enkephalin (Leu-enkephalin), α -neoendorphin, β -neoendorphin, dynorphin A, dynorphin B, leumorphin, vasopressin, neurophysin, oxytocin, neurophysin I, substance P, neurokinin A, neuropeptide K, neuropeptide- γ , neurokinin B, bombesin, gastrin-releasing peptide, secretin, motilin, glucagon, vasoactive intestinal peptide, growth hormone-releasing factor, insulin, insulin-like growth factors, somatostatin, gastrin, cholecystokinin, neuropeptide Y, pancreatic polypeptide, peptide YY, corticotropin-releasing factor, calcitonin, calcitonin gene-related peptide, angiotensin, bradykinin, thyrotropin-releasing hormone, neurotensin, galanin and luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone. Nerve cells capable of producing these peptide neurotransmitters can be identified by staining using an antibody which recognizes a neurotransmitter or a neurotransmitter precursor peptide, or by detecting

expression of mRNA coding for the neurotransmitter or neurotransmitter precursor peptide.

(0037)

The method for inducing differentiation of the present invention is suitably used for inducing differentiation into nerve cells, preferably dopaminergic neurons, acetylcholinergic neurons, γ -aminobutyrategic neurons and serotonergic neurons.

Particularly, the dopaminergic neuron induced from an embryonic stem cell by the method of the present invention is characterized as a cell which expresses tyrosine hydroxylase whose expression is observed in the catecholaminergic neurons in common but which does not express dopamine- β -hydroxylase whose expression is observed in the noradrenalinergic neurons and adrenalinergic neurons in common, as described above, and is capable of improving symptoms of nerve degeneration diseases such as Parkinson disease by its transplantation.

(0038)

The neural stem cell is defined as a cell which is capable of differentiating into neuron, astrocyte and oligodendrocyte and also has the self-replicating ability. The neural stem cell does not have the pluripotency of embryonic stem cell to differentiate into all cells but functions to supply a nerve cell, an astrocyte and an oligodendrocyte in the brain. For example, differentiation potency can be examined by brain transplant. A method for differentiation induction of the neural stem cell into a nerve cell, an astrocyte and an oligodendrocyte is known and the differentiation potency can be confirmed by the method. The neural stem cell having such a function can be stained with an anti-nestin antibody which recognizes a cytoskeletal protein nestin whose expression in a nerve precursor cell has been confirmed (R. McKay, *Science*, 276, 66 (1997)).

In the method of the present invention, differentiation induction to the nestin-positive neural stem cell can be carried out suitably and efficiently.

(8) The method according to (7), wherein the nerve cell is a nerve cell selected from the group consisting of the following (a), (b), (c) and (d):

- (a) a dopaminergic neuron;
- (b) an acetylcholinergic neuron;
- (c) a γ -aminobutyrategic neuron; and
- (d) a serotonergic neuron.

(9) The method according to any one of (1) to (8), wherein the non-aggregation conditions are conditions not mediating an embryoid body.

(10) The method according to any one of (1) to (9), which further comprises culturing under serum-free culture conditions.

(0039)

(11) The method according to any one of (1) to (10), wherein said culturing is carried out in the presence of a stroma cell-derived factor.

(12) The method according to any one of (1) to (11), wherein said culturing is carried out in the presence of a stroma cell.

(13) The method according to (12), wherein the stroma cell is a stroma cell whose proliferation potency is deleted by a physicochemical treatment.

(14) The method according to (13), wherein the physicochemical treatment is selected from the group consisting of the following (a), (b) and (c):

(a) a treatment with an antitumor agent;

(b) a treatment by an radiation irradiation; and

(c) a treatment for tissue fixation used in pathologic diagnosis.

(15) The method according to (14), wherein the antitumor agent is selected from the group consisting of mitomycin C, 5-fluorouracil, adriamycin and methotrexate.

(16) The method according to (14), wherein the treatment for tissue fixation used in pathologic diagnosis is selected from the group consisting of a microwave fixation, a rapid freeze-substitution fixation, a glutaraldehyde fixation, a p-formaldehyde fixation, a formalin fixation, an acetone fixation, a Van fixation, a periodic acid fixation, a methanol fixation and an osmic acid fixation.

(0040)

(17) The method according to any one of (11) to (16), wherein the stroma cell is selected from the group consisting of the following (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g):

(a) a fetal primary culture fibroblast;

(b) an SIHM mouse-derived STO cell;

(c) a mouse fetus-derived NIH/3T3 cell;

(d) an M-CSF deficient mouse calvaria-derived OP9 cell;

(e) a mouse calvaria-derived MC3T3-G2/PA6 cell;

(f) an embryonic stem cell-derived stroma cell; and

(g) a bone marrow mesenchymal stem cell-derived stroma cell.

(0041)

(18) The method according to any one of (1) to (17), wherein the embryonic stem cell is selected from the group consisting of the following (a), (b) and (c):

- (a) an embryonic stem cell established by culturing an early embryo before implantation;
 - (b) an embryonic stem cell established by culturing an early embryo produced by nuclear transplantation of the nucleus of a somatic cell; and
 - (c) an embryonic stem cell in which a gene on the chromosome of the embryonic stem cell of (a) or (b) is modified using a gene engineering technique.
- (19) The method according to any one of (1) to (18), wherein said culturing is carried out in the absence of retinoic acid.
- (20) The method according to any one of (1) to (19), wherein the embryonic stem cell is differentiated into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell at an efficiency of 5% or more.
- (0042)
- (21) A medium for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which is used in the method according to any one of (1) to (20).
- (22) An agent for inducing differentiation of an ectodermal cell into an epidermal system cell, which comprises, as an active ingredient, bone morphogenetic protein 4.
- (23) An agent for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises, as an active ingredient, a stroma cell which has activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, or a factor derived from the cell.
- (24) The agent for inducing differentiation according to (24), wherein the stroma cell is the stroma cell according to any one of (13) to (17).
- (25) A method for obtaining an antibody which specifically recognizes a stroma cell which has activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises using a stroma cell as an antigen.
- (26) The method according to (25), wherein the stroma cell is a stroma cell according to any one of (13) to (17).
- (27) An antibody which specifically recognizes a stroma cell which has activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which is obtained by the method according to (25) or (26).
- (28) A method for obtaining an antigen recognized by the antibody according to (27), which comprises using the antibody.

(29) An antigen recognized by the antibody according to (27), which is obtained by the method according to (28).

(30) A medium for culturing a cell, which comprises the antigen according to claim 29.

(31) An ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which is induced by using the method according to any one of (1) to (20).

(0043)

(32) A method for evaluating a substance relating to the regulation in a differentiation step from an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises: carrying out the method according to any one of (1) to (20) in the presence of a substance to be tested and the method in the absence of the substance to be tested; and comparing the differentiation step from an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell in the presence of the substance to be tested with that in the absence of the substance to be tested.

(0044)

(33) A method for screening a substance relating to the regulation in a differentiation step from an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises: carrying out the method according to any one of (1) to (20) in the presence of a substance to be tested and the method in the absence of the substance to be tested; and comparing the differentiation step from an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell in the presence of a substance to be tested with that in the absence of the substance to be tested.

(34) A method for evaluating a substance relating to the regulation of the function of an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell; which comprises: culturing the cell according to (31) in the presence of a substance to be tested and the cell in the absence of the substance to be tested; and comparing the function of an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell in the presence of the substance to be tested with that in the absence of the substance to be tested.

(35) A method for screening a substance relating to the regulation of the function of an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises: culturing the cell according to (31) in the presence of a substance to be tested and that in the absence of the substance to be tested; and comparing the function of the ectodermal cell or the ectoderm-derived cell in the presence of the substance to be tested with that in the absence of the substance to be tested.

(0045)

(36) A medicament comprising a stroma cell having activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, or a factor derived from the cell.

(37) The medicament according to (36), wherein the stroma cell is a stroma cell according to any one of (13) to (17).

(38) A medicament comprising the antibody according to (27).

(39) A medicament comprising the antigen according to (29).

(40) A medicament comprising the ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell according to (31).

(41) The medicament according to any one of (36) to (40), which is a medicament for diagnosing, preventing and/or treating diseases caused by the ectoderm-derived cell.

(42) The medicament according to (41), wherein the diseases caused by the disorder of an ectoderm-derived cell are diseases caused by the disorder of a nervous system cell or an epidermal system cell.

(0046)

(43) The medicament according to (42), wherein the diseases caused by the disorder of a nervous system cell are Alzheimer disease, Huntington chorea, Parkinson disease, ischemic cerebral disease, epilepsy, brain injury, vertebral injury, motor neuron disease, neurodegeneration disease, pigmentary retinal dystrophy, cochlear hearing loss, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or diseases due to a neurotoxin damage; and the diseases caused by the disorder of an epidermal system cell are burn, wound, healing of wound, compression gangrene or psoriasis.

(44) A method for immunologically detecting the antigen according to (29), which comprises using the antibody according to (27).

(45) A tissue immunostaining method of the antigen according to (29), which comprises using the antibody according to (27).

(46) A method for obtaining a stroma cell-derived factor which has activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell, which comprises culturing an embryonic stem cell under non-aggregation conditions in the presence of a stroma cell and using, as an index, the activity of inducing differentiation of the embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell.

(47) The method according to (46), wherein the stroma cell is the stroma cell according to any one of (13) to (17).

(0047)

(Embodiments for carrying out the invention)

The embodiments and methods for carrying out the present invention are described below in detail.

The differentiation induction method of the present invention is a method for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell, which comprises culturing the embryonic stem cell under non-aggregation conditions.

According to the method for inducing differentiation of the present invention, it is preferred to culture the embryonic stem cell without using retinoic acid in the culturing step of the cell under non-aggregation conditions.

(0048)

Herein, culturing of an embryonic stem cell under non-aggregation conditions means that culturing is started under a single cell state effected by disengaging mutual adhesion of cells, followed by culturing continuously. In culturing, the inoculated cells do not aggregate or form an embryoid body. In order to start culturing of an embryonic stem cell in a single cell state, followed by continuously culturing, the embryonic stem cells are inoculated at a cell density of lower than the cell density used for usual subculturing of embryonic stem cells and cultured. That is, the embryonic stem cell is treated, e.g., with an enzyme digestion, a cell suspension of single cell state is produced using a medium and then the cell suspension is cultured under such conditions that individual cells are present without mutual contact in the culturing system. Such culturing is fundamentally different from the idea of a conventional embryoid body-employed method for generating the differentiation induction by positively aggregating cells and thereby reproducing a pseudo-embryo state. In this case, the cell density of inoculating embryonic stem cell by which individual cells are present without mutual contact in the culturing system is preferably from several tens to several hundreds of cells/cm², more preferably from 30 to 300 cells/cm².

(0049)

The term "culturing without using retinoic acid" means that the cell is cultured without using retinoic acid at a non-physiological concentration. The non-physiological concentration means a concentration higher than the *in vivo* physiological concentration. Specifically, since it is known that retinoic acid is present in human blood generally at a concentration of about 10⁻⁸ mol/l (*Seikagaku Jiten*, second edition, Tokyo Kagaku Dojin (1992)), a concentration range of from 10⁻⁷ to 10⁻⁶ mol/l generally used for the differentiation induction of embryonic stem cells is the non-physiological

concentration. Since retinoic acid has an action as a morphogen which has influence upon the morphogenesis at the time of developmental differentiation and, depending on the cell species, also has strong toxicity, there is a possibility of causing secondary side effects when a culture system using retinoic acid at a non-physiological concentration is applied to a medical treatment. Thus, the risk accompanied by the use of retinoic acid can be avoided by culturing without using retinoic acid.

(0050)

In the method for inducing differentiation of the present invention, the method for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell under non-aggregation conditions is preferably a method for culturing an embryonic stem cell in the presence of a stroma cell or a stroma cell-derived factor. The stroma cell is described above, and examples of the stroma cell-derived factor include an antigen which will be described later in item 3, a factor obtained by a method which will be described later in item 9, a culture supernatant of the stroma cell and a fragment of the stroma cell and the like.

(0051)

The method for inducing differentiation of the present invention includes a method which comprises a step for preparing embryonic stem cells in a single cell state (conditions in which individual cells are separated without mutual adhesion of cells, e.g., with an enzyme digestion) and a step for culturing the embryonic stem cell under non-aggregation conditions in the presence of a stroma cell or a stroma cell-derived factor. Also, in the step, culturing is preferably carried out without using retinoic acid.

Differentiation of an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell into a nervous system cell can be induced by continuing culturing by a method including the above step while optionally exchanging the medium.

In order to induce differentiation of an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell into an epidermal system cell, it is preferable to add BMP4 to a culturing system including the above step.

In the present invention, the step of the present invention for culturing an embryonic stem cell under non-aggregation conditions is preferably carried out under serum-free culture conditions, but it is possible to carry out, after serum-free culturing, a step for culturing under serum-added culturing conditions (e.g., a step in which culturing is carried out at 37°C in a stream of several percents, preferably 5%, of carbon dioxide in a CO₂ incubator, using a medium produced by adding preferably of several ten percents, more preferably from 5 to 20%, of a mammal serum to the basal medium

described in the following item 7). Particularly, in differentiation induction in an epidermal system cell, the differentiation induction ratio can be further improved by including this step for culturing under serum-added culturing conditions.

In the method for inducing differentiation of the present invention, the ratio of stroma cell to embryonic stem cell in the culturing system may be any ratio, so long as the embryonic stem cell can be differentiation-induced into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell by the ratio. But it is from 10^4 to 1 per 1 (the number of stroma cells per the number of embryonic stem cells), preferably from 10^3 to 1 per 1, and more preferably from 10^2 to 10 per 1.

(0052)

As the culturing method of the present invention for effecting differentiation induction of an ectodermal cell and an ectoderm-derived cell from an embryonic stem cell, any method can be used, so long as it is suitable for the differentiation induction of the embryonic stem cell to be used. Examples include a monolayer culturing method, a coculturing method with a supporting cell, a high density-maintaining culturing method, a micro-carrier culturing method, a perfusion culturing method, a soft-agar culturing method and the like. Specific examples include a method in which an embryonic stem cell under a single cell state (conditions in which individual cells are separated without mutual adhesion of cells, e.g., with an enzyme digestion) is cultured in a medium produced in the following item 7, a method in which a single cell state embryonic stem cell suspended in a medium produced in the following item 7 is cocultured with a stroma cell produced in advance in item 1, for several days under non-aggregation conditions and the like. In this case, coculturing of an embryonic stem cell with a stroma cell includes coculturing in which the embryonic stem cell and stroma cell are physically contacted with each other and coculturing in which both cells are present in the same culturing system but cannot be contacted physically with each other due to their separation by a partition wall through which substances can pass.

Coculturing in which the embryonic stem cell and stroma cell are present in the same culturing system but cannot be contacted physically with each other due to their separation by a partition wall through which substances can pass includes coculturing in which both cells are separately cultured using a filter generally used in cell culture can be exemplified. The filter may have a pore size of preferably from 0.01 to several tens μm , more preferably from 0.02 to 12 μm . Specific examples of the filter include Membrane Culture Insert (manufactured by Iwaki Glass), Nunc TC Insert (manufactured by Nunc), COCULTURE Dish (manufactured by Greiner), Cell Culture

Insert (manufactured by Falcon), Chemotaxis Chamber (manufactured by Neuro Probe Inc.) and the like. Either of the embryonic stem cell and the stroma cell can be cultured on the filter, but it is preferable to culture the stroma cell on the filter.

(0053)

As the culture vessel used in the present invention, any culture vessel which can culture the embryonic stem cell can be used, but a culture vessel for cell culturing is preferred. Examples of the culture vessel for cell culturing include a flask, a tissue culture flask, a dish, a Petri dish, a tissue culture dish, a Conzar dish, a Permanox dish, a multi-dish, a microplate, a micro-well plate, a multi-plate, a multi-well plate, a separate strip well, a Terasaki plate, a tissue culture chamber slide, a schale, a cell culture schale, a tissue culture tube, a tray, a cell culture tray, a cell factory, a culture bag, a techno pot, a roller bottle, a spinner, a hollow fiber and the like. In order to control adhesiveness of the culture vessel and cells, the cell-contacting side surface of the culture vessel can be artificially treated. Examples of the artificial treatment of the culture vessel surface include collagen coating, gelatin coating, poly-L-lysine coating, fibronectin coating, laminin coating, proteoglycan coating, glycoprotein coating, matrigel coating, silicon coating and the like. In addition, the vessel can also be treated to provide a negative electric charge such as Primaria (manufactured by Falcon).

Examples of the method for culturing an embryonic stem cell include the embryonic stem cell culturing methods described in *Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994); *Methods in Enzymology*, volume 225, Guide to Techniques in Mouse Development, Academic Press (1993); *Biomannual Series 8, Gene Targeting, Production of Mutation Mouse Using ES Cell*, Yodo-sha (1995); and the like. Also, it is possible to carry out serum-free culturing; e.g., the cell can be subcultured while keeping its characters as an undifferentiated embryonic stem cell using a Dulbecco's MEM medium supplemented with 15 to 20% KNOCKOUT™ SR (manufactured by GIBCO BRL), 2 mM glutamine, 100 µM MEM non-essential amino acids solution, 50 U/ml penicillin, 50 U/ml streptomycin, 100 µM 2-mercaptoethanol and 1,000 U/ml LIF (M.D. Goldsborough *et al.*, *Focus*, 20, 8 (1998)).

(0054)

Examples of the method for obtaining single cell state embryonic stem cell include a known enzyme digestion method used in tissue cell culturing. Specifically, the embryonic stem cell is proliferated to a stage from several 10% to an almost confluent by exchanging the medium on the preceding day, the medium is removed

from the culture dish and then the cells are washed with an aqueous phosphate-buffered saline solution (hereinafter referred to as "PBS") several times, preferably 2 to 3 times. After washing, an appropriate enzyme digestion solution (e.g., PBS containing 1 mM EDTA and 0.25% trypsin) is added to the culture dish containing the embryonic stem cells, followed by culturing at 37°C for several tens of minutes, preferably from 5 to 20 minutes. After the enzyme reaction, the cells are suspended in a medium produced in the following item 2 and centrifuged (e.g., at 4°C and 200×g for 5 minutes) and then the embryonic stem cells are again suspended in the medium to thereby recover the embryonic stem cells in the single cell state.

(0055)

Specific examples of the method for effecting differentiation induction of an ectodermal cell and a nervous system cell from an embryonic cell by coculturing the embryonic cell and stroma cell include a method in which the recovered embryonic stem cell is suspended in a medium produced in the following item 2 (e.g., a medium produced by adding 10% KNOCKOUT™ SR (manufactured by GIBCO BRL), 2 mM glutamine, 50 U/ml penicillin, 50 U/ml streptomycin, 100 μM MEM non-essential amino acids solution, 1 mM pyruvic acid and 100 μM 2-mercaptoethanol to the Glasgow MEM medium), the suspension is inoculated at a cell density of several tens to several hundreds of cells/cm², preferably 100 cells/cm², into a culture vessel (e.g., a cell culture flask) in which the stroma cell produced in the following item 4 is cultured, and then the cells are cultured at 37°C for 5 to 20 days, preferably 7 to 10 days, in a stream of several percent, preferably 5%, of carbon dioxide in a CO₂ incubator.

(0056)

Specific examples of the method for effecting differentiation induction of an ectodermal cell and an epidermal system cell from an embryonic cell by coculturing the embryonic cell and stroma cell include a method in which the recovered embryonic stem cell is suspended in a medium produced in the following item 2 (e.g., a medium produced by adding 10% KNOCKOUT™ SR (manufactured by GIBCO BRL), 2 mM glutamine, 50 U/ml penicillin, 50 U/ml streptomycin, 100 μM MEM non-essential amino acids solution, 1 mM pyruvic acid, 100 μM 2-mercaptoethanol and 0.1 to 100 ng/ml, preferably 1 to 50 ng/ml, BMP4 to the Glasgow MEM medium), the suspension is inoculated at a cell density of from several tens to several hundreds of cells/cm², preferably 100 cells/cm², into a culture vessel (e.g., a cell culture flask) in which the stroma cell produced in the following item 4 is cultured, and then the cells are cultured

at 37°C for 5 to 20 days, preferably 7 to 10 days, in a stream of several percent, preferably 5%, of carbon dioxide in a CO₂ incubator.

(0057)

In addition, instead of coculturing the embryonic stem cell with stroma cell, the ectodermal cell and ectoderm-derived cell can also be differentiation-induced from the embryonic cell by using a medium produced by adding a culture supernatant of OP9 cell, NIH/3T3 cell or MC3T3-G2/PA6 cell to the embryonic stem cell culturing medium. Furthermore, instead of coculturing the embryonic stem cell with stroma cell, the ectodermal cell and ectoderm-derived cell can also be differentiation-induced from the embryonic cell by using a medium produced by adding a factor produced by OP9 cell, NIH/3T3 cell, MC3T3-G2/PA6 cell, STO cell or fetal primary culture fibroblast cell to the medium.

(0058)

By this method, the ectodermal cell or ectoderm-derived cell of the present invention can be obtained. By the method of the present invention, the embryonic stem cell is differentiation-induced into the ectodermal cell or ectoderm-derived cell, and 5% or more, preferably 15% or more, more preferably 40% or more, and most preferably 80% or more, of the embryonic stem cell subjected to the method for inducing differentiation of the present invention can be differentiation-induced into an ectodermal system cell (an ectodermal cell or ectoderm-derived cell).

(0059)

1. Production of stroma cell

Regarding the stroma cell used in the method for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell in the present invention, any of the cells having activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell can be used. Specific examples include:

- (a) a fetal primary culture fibroblast (*Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994); *Gene Targeting, A Practical Approach*, IRL Press at Oxford University Press (1993); *Biomanual Series 8, Gene Targeting, Production of Mutation Mouse Using ES Cell*, Yodo-sha (1995));
- (b) an SIHM mouse-derived STO cell (G. Martin, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 78, 7634 (1981); M.J. Evans *et al.*, *Nature*, 292, 154 (1981));

- (c) a mouse fetus-derived NIH/3T3 cell (J.L. Jainchill *et al.*, *J. Virol.*, 4, 549 (1969));
- (d) an M-CSF deficient mouse calvaria-derived OP9 cell (T. Nakano *et al.*, *Science*, 272, 722 (1996));
- (e) a mouse calvaria-derived MC3T3-G2/PA6 cell (H. Kodama *et al.*, *J. Cell. Physiol.*, 112, 89 (1982));
- (f) a stroma cell obtained by its differentiation induction from an embryonic stem cell which is already confirmed to have a pluripotency (*Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994)); and
- (g) a stroma cell obtained by its differentiation induction from a bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cell which is shown to have a differentiation potency into various stroma cells (*Science*, 284, 143 (1999)).

Among these, a stroma cell of (c), (d) or (e) is preferred, and a stroma cell of (e) is more preferred.

(0060)

In culturing of the stroma cell, subculturing is preferably carried out using the method used for its establishment. Also, a method for culturing a feeder cell for use in culturing of a embryonic cell described, for example, in *Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994); *Methods in Enzymology*, volume 225, Guide to Techniques in Mouse Development, Academic Press (1993); *Biomaterial Series 8, Gene Targeting, Production of Mutation Mouse Using ES Cell*, Yodo-sha (1995) or the like. Specifically, it can be cultured using Dulbecco's MEM medium (manufactured by GIBCO BRL) supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum (manufactured by GIBCO BRL), 2 mM glutamine, 50 U/ml penicillin and 50 U/ml streptomycin.

(0061)

When the stroma cell is used in culturing for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell, stroma cells proliferated on an appropriate support such as a culture dish may be used as living cells, or cells which lost the proliferation ability by undergoing a physicochemical treatment can be used. The cells which lost the proliferation ability by physicochemical treatment are cells from which the ability of forming next generation progenies accompanied by gene replication is completely lost, specifically, those cells which are obtained by culturing using an antitumor agent-containing medium, by a lethal dose

radiation irradiation or by applying treatment for tissue fixation used in pathologic diagnosis.

(0062)

The living stroma cells can be produced, for example, by washing the cells whose cell density reached almost confluent by exchanging the medium on the preceding day, several times with PBS, and then adding a medium of the present invention obtained in the above item 2 (e.g., a serum-free medium used in culturing for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell). Alternatively, they can also be produced by digesting the cells which reached an almost confluent with an appropriate digestive enzyme (e.g., PBS containing 0.02% EDTA and 0.05 to 0.25% trypsin or actinase), suspending the thus recovered cells in a medium of the present invention obtained in the above item 2 (e.g., a serum-free medium used in culturing for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell), and then inoculating the suspension into a culture vessel (e.g., a tissue culture dish coated with 0 to 1%, preferably 0.1%, of gelatin) and culturing for about 1 day.

(0063)

The stroma cell which lost the proliferation ability by culturing using an antitumor agent-containing medium can be produced by a method described in, for example, *Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994); *Gene Targeting, A Practical Approach*, IRL Press at Oxford University Press (1993); *Biomanual Series 8, Gene Targeting, Production of Mutation Mouse Using ES Cell*, Yodo-sha (1995) or the like. For example, it can be produced by culturing the cells whose cell density reached an almost confluent by exchanging the medium on the preceding day, in a medium containing 1 to 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, preferably 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, of mitomycin C for several hours, preferably 2 to 3 hours, washing the resulting cells several times with PBS, digesting the cells with an appropriate digestive enzyme (e.g., PBS containing 0.02% EDTA and 0.05 to 0.25% trypsin or actinase), suspending the thus recovered cells in a medium of the present invention obtained in the above item 2 (e.g., a serum-free medium used in culturing for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell), and then inoculating the suspension into a culture vessel (e.g., a tissue culture dish coated with 0 to 1%, preferably 0.1%, of gelatin), followed by culturing for about 1 day. In addition, the stroma cell which lost the proliferation ability can also be produced by using other antitumor agent such as 5-fluorouracil,

adriamycin, methotrexate or the like at a concentration of 1/10 to 10 times of, preferably identical to, the concentration used in the living body described in *The Pharmacopoeia of Japan*, instead of mitomycin C.

(0064)

The stroma cell which lost the proliferation ability by receiving lethal dose of a radiation irradiation can be produced by using a method described in, for example, in *Tissue Culture Techniques*, Asakura Shoten (1982); *Tissue Culture Techniques* (Second Edition), Asakura Shoten (1988); *Tissue Culture Techniques* (Third Edition), Asakura Shoten (1996); or the like. For example, it can be produced by exposing the cells whose cell density reached almost confluent by exchanging the medium on the preceding day to 200 to 5,000 rad, preferably 500 to 1,000 rad, of an X-ray or γ -ray, washing the cells several times with PBS, and then adding a medium of the present invention obtained in the above item 2 (e.g., a serum-free medium to be used in the culturing for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell). Alternatively, it can also be produced by digesting the radiation-irradiated cells with an appropriate digestive enzyme (e.g., PBS containing 0.02% EDTA and 0.05 to 0.25% trypsin or actinase), suspending the thus recovered cells in a medium of the present invention obtained in the above item 2 (e.g., a serum-free medium used in culturing for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell), and then inoculating the suspension into a culture vessel (e.g., a tissue culture dish coated with 0 to 1%, preferably 0.1%, of gelatin), followed by culturing for about 1 day.

(0065)

The stroma cell which lost the proliferation ability by a tissue fixation treatment used in pathologic diagnosis can be produced by using a method described in, for example, *Histochemistry and Cytochemistry*, Gakusai Kikaku (1987-1999), edited and published every year by Japanese Society of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry, *Basic Techniques for Transmission Electron Microscopy*, Acad. Press (1986), *Electron Microscopy Chart Manual*, Igaku Shuppan Center (1993) or the like. Specifically, it can be produced by carrying out a microwave fixation, a rapid freeze-substitution fixation, a glutaraldehyde fixation, a p-formaldehyde fixation, a formalin fixation, an acetone fixation, a Van fixation, a periodic acid fixation, a methanol fixation or an osmic acid fixation. For example, it can be produced by soaking the cells whose cell density reached almost confluent by exchanging the medium on the preceding day, in a solution containing 0.1 to 50%, preferably 1 to 10%, and more preferably from 3 to 5%,

of p-formaldehyde at 4°C for, e.g., several minutes to several hours, preferably 5 minutes to 1 hour, and more preferably 30 minutes, and then washing the cells several times with PBS.

The agent for inducing differentiation of the present invention can be of any form, so long as it contains the stroma cell or stroma cell-derived factor as the active ingredient. Examples include an agent comprising a culture capable of coculturing an embryonic stem cell with a stroma cell and an agent comprising the stroma cell. Cell fragments of the stroma cell and a culture supernatant of the stroma cell can also be used as the active ingredient of the agent for inducing differentiation.

(0066)

2. Method for obtaining antibody which recognizes stroma cell in the present invention

An antibody such as a polyclonal antibody, a monoclonal antibody and the like which recognize the stroma cell of the present invention can be produced using the stroma cell of the present invention as the antigen. A large number of studies have been reported on the production, using a cell as the antigen, of an antibody specific for the surface of the cell used as the antigen and of an antigen molecule recognized by the antibody (N. Itoh *et al.*, *Cell*, 66, 233 (1991)), and currently a large number of surface antigen molecules have been identified to be known as CD antigens.

(0067)

Similar to the production of antibodies using proteins and peptides as the antigen, techniques for preparing antibodies capable of recognizing cell surface molecules using cells as the antigen have been established, so that an antibody which recognizes the stroma cell of the present invention can be produced, e.g., by the following method.

(0068)

(1) Production of polyclonal antibody

A polyclonal antibody can be produced by using the stroma cell to be used in the present invention as the antigen and administering it into an animal.

Examples of the useful animal to be administered include rabbit, goat, 3-20 weeks-old rat, mouse, hamster and the like.

It is preferred that the dose of the antigen is 10^4 to 10^8 cells, or 0.01 to 10 mg as a cell membrane fraction produced from the cells, per one animal.

The immunogen is administered by subcutaneous or intraperitoneal injection together with an appropriate adjuvant (e.g., complete Freund's adjuvant, a combination of aluminum hydroxide gel with pertussis vaccine, and the like).

The immunogen is administered 3 to 10 times at intervals of 1 to 2 weeks after the first administration. Three to seven days after each administration, a blood sample is taken from the venous plexus of the eyegrounds, and the serum derived from the sample is tested as to whether it is reactive with the antigen used in the immunization, for example, by enzyme immunoassay (*Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)*), published by Igaku Shoin (1976), *Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1988), a method using a flow cytometer (*Monoclonal Antibodies: principles and practice*, Third Edition, Acad. Press (1993)) or the like.

(0069)

It is already known that a cell membrane component of cells used as the antigen can be produced using many known methods, for example, it can be produced by the method of Jones *et al.* (D.H. Jones and A.L. Matus, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta.*, 356, 276 (1974)) using a difference in sucrose density gradient, and the enzyme immunoassay can be carried out using a plate coated with this cell membrane component.

A polyclonal antibody can be obtained by preparing a serum sample from a non-human mammal in which its serum showed a sufficient antibody titer for the antigen used in the immunization and separating and purifying the antibody from the serum.

(0070)

Examples of the separation and purification method include centrifugation, salting out with 40 to 50% saturation ammonium sulfate, caprylic acid precipitation (*Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1988)), chromatography using, e.g., a DEAE-Sepharose column, an anion exchange column, a protein A- or G-column, a gel filtration column, *etc.*, and the like, which may be used alone or as a combination.

(0071)

(2) Production of monoclonal antibody

(a) Production of antibody producing cell

A mouse or rat in which its serum showed a sufficient antibody titer for the stroma cell of the present invention used in the immunization is submitted for use as a supply source of the antibody producing cell.

Three to seven days after the final administration of the cell used as the antigen into the mouse or rat which showed the antibody titer, the spleen is excised.

The spleen is cut to pieces in MEM medium (manufactured by Nissui Pharmaceutical), the cells are unbound using a pair of forceps and centrifuged at 1,200 rpm for 5 minutes, and then the supernatant is discarded.

Splenocytes in the thus obtained precipitation fraction are treated with Tris-ammonium chloride buffer (pH 7.65) for 1 to 2 minutes to eliminate erythrocytes and then washed three times with MEM medium, and the thus obtained splenocytes are used as the antibody producing cells.

(0072)

(b) Production of myeloma cells

Cells of a cell line which have been obtained from mouse or rat are used as the myeloma cells. For example, the 8-azaguanine-resistant mouse (BALB/c-derived) myeloma cell lines P3-X63Ag8-U1 (hereinafter referred to as "P3-U1") (*Curr. Topics in Microbiol. Immunol.*, 81, 1 (1978)); *Europ. J. Immunol.*, 6, 511(1976)), SP2/O-Ag14 (SP-2) (*Nature*, 276, 269 (1978)), P3-X63-Ag8653 (653) (*J. Immunol.*, 123, 1548 (1979)), P3-X63-Ag8 (X63) (*Nature*, 256, 495 (1975)) or the like may be used. These cell lines are subcultured in an 8-azaguanine medium (produced by supplementing RPMI-1640 medium with glutamine (1.5 mM), 2-mercaptoethanol (5×10^{-5} M), gentamicin (10 μ g/ml) and fetal calf serum (FCS) (manufactured by CSL; 10%) (hereinafter referred to as "normal medium") and further supplementing the resulting medium with 8-azaguanine (15 μ g/ml)), culturing is carried out 3 to 4 days before cell fusion in the normal medium, and 2×10^7 or more of the cells are used in the cell fusion.

(0073)

(c) Production of hybridoma

The antibody producing cells obtained in (a) and the myeloma cells obtained in (b) are washed well with MEM or PBS (1.83 g of disodium phosphate, 0.21 g of monopotassium phosphate and 7.65 g of sodium chloride per liter of distilled water, pH 7.2), and mixed in a proportion of antibody producing cells : myeloma cell = 5 to 10 : 1, the mixture is centrifuged at 1,200 rpm for 5 minutes and then the supernatant is discarded.

The cells of the thus obtained precipitation fraction are thoroughly disintegrated, 0.2 to 1 ml of a mixture solution containing 2 g of polyethylene glycol-1,000 (PEG-1,000), 2 ml of MEM and 0.7 ml of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) is added to the cells per 10^8 antibody producing cells with stirring at 37°C, then 1 to 2 ml of MEM is added several times at 1- to 2-minute intervals.

After the addition, the total volume is adjusted to 50 ml by adding MEM. After centrifugation of the thus produced solution at 900 rpm for 5 minutes, the supernatant is discarded. The cells of the thus obtained precipitation fraction are loosened gently and then suspended in 100 ml of HAT medium (produced by supplementing the normal medium with hypoxanthine (10^{-4} M), thymidine (1.5×10^{-5} M) and aminopterin (4×10^{-7} M)) by repeated drawing up and discharging using a measuring pipette.

(0074)

This suspension is dispensed in 100 μ l into each well of a 96-well incubation plates and incubated in a 5% CO₂ incubator at 37°C for 7 to 14 days.

After the incubation, a part of the culture supernatant is taken from each well, and a hybridoma which specifically reacts with the stroma cell of the present invention is selected by the enzyme immunoassay described in, for example, *Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1988), or by the flow cytometer method described in, for example, *Monoclonal Antibodies*.

(0075)

Specific examples of the enzyme immunoassay are shown below.

An appropriate plate is coated with the cell membrane fraction produced from the stroma cell of the present invention used as the antigen in immunization, the plate is allowed to react with a hybridoma culture supernatant or the purified antibody obtained in the following procedure (d), as a first antibody, and then with an anti-rat or anti-mouse immunoglobulin antibody as a second antibody labeled with biotin, an enzyme, a chemiluminescent substance, a radioactive compound or the like, and then a reaction suitable for the label is carried out to select a hybridoma which produces an antibody specifically reacting with the stroma cell of the present invention as a hybridoma which produces the monoclonal antibody of the present invention.

(0076)

A specific method using a flow cytometer is shown below.

The cells used as the antigen are allowed to react with a hybridoma culture supernatant or the purified antibody obtained in the following procedure (d) as a first antibody, and then with an anti-mouse or anti-rat immunoglobulin antibody as a second antibody labeled with biotin, a fluorescent material or the like, or further with a fluorescent-labeled avidin when a biotin-labeled second antibody is used, and then the presence of staining is confirmed using a flow cytometer such as FACS to select a hybridoma which produces an antibody specifically reacting with the stroma cell of the

present invention as a hybridoma which produces the monoclonal antibody of the present invention.

(0077)

Using the hybridoma, cloning is repeated twice by limiting dilution (using HT medium (HAT medium minus aminopterin) for the first cloning and the normal medium for the second), and a line for which a high antibody titer is constantly observed is selected as a hybridoma which produces the monoclonal antibody of the present invention.

(0078)

(d) Production of monoclonal antibody

The monoclonal antibody producing hybridoma cells of the present invention obtained in (c) are intraperitoneally injected into 8 to 10 weeks-old mice or nude mice treated with pristane (by intraperitoneal administration of 0.5 ml of 2,6,10,14-tetramethylpentadecane (pristane) followed by feeding for 2 weeks) at a dose of 5×10^6 to 20×10^6 cells per animal. The hybridoma causes ascites tumor in 10 to 21 days.

The ascitic fluid is collected from the ascites tumor-caused mice and centrifuged at 3,000 rpm for 5 minutes to remove solid matter.

A monoclonal antibody can be purified and obtained from the resulting supernatant by the same method used for the production of a polyclonal antibody.

(0079)

The subclass of the antibody can be determined using a mouse monoclonal antibody typing kit or a rat monoclonal antibody typing kit. The amount of protein can be determined by the Lowry method or calculated based on the absorbance at 280 nm.

(0080)

3. Preparation of antigen recognized by the antibody of the present invention

The antibody obtained by using the stroma cell of the invention produced in the above item 2 recognizes antigen molecules existing on many cell surfaces. Thus, antigen molecules recognized by the antibody can be obtained by using the thus produced antibody. Specifically, it can be carried out using the expression cloning techniques described in, for example, *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1989) (hereinafter referred to as "*Molecular Cloning, Second Edition*"), or *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Monoclonal Antibodies: principles and practice*, Third Edition, Acad. Press (1993) (hereinafter referred to as *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*).

(0081)

Specifically, for example, cDNA is produced from the stroma cell of the present invention.

The cDNA is inserted into downstream of the promoter of an appropriate expression vector to prepare a recombinant vector and a cDNA library. By introducing the recombinant vector into a host cell suited for the expression vector, transformants capable of producing gene products produced by the stroma cell of the present invention are obtained.

A transformant which produces a gene product which reacts with the antibody of the present invention is selected therefrom.

An antigen molecule recognized by the antibody of the present invention can be obtained by determining the gene sequence encoded by the cDNA introduced into the selected transformant.

It will be explained in detail below.

(0082)

Any of bacteria, yeast, animal cells, insect cells, plant cells and the like can be used as the host cell, so long as it can express the target gene. Examples of the expression vector include those which can autonomously replicate in the above host cell or which can be integrated into a chromosome and have a promoter at an operative position such that the DNA encoding the antigen of the present invention can be transcribed.

(0083)

First, total RNA is prepared from a stroma cell used in the present invention. Examples of the method includes a guanidine thiocyanate-caesium trifluoroacetate method (*Methods in Enzymol.*, 154, 3 (1987)), an acidic thiocyanate guanidine-phenol-chloroform (AGPC) method (*Analytical Biochemistry*, 162, 156 (1987), *Experimental Medicine*, 2, 1937 (1991))) and the like. Examples of the method for preparing mRNA from total RNA include an oligo (dT) immobilized cellulose column method (*Molecular Cloning*, Second Edition) and the like. Also, mRNA can be prepared by using a kit such as Fast Track mRNA Isolation Kit (manufactured by Invitrogen), Quick Prep mRNA Purification Kit (manufactured by Pharmacia) or the like.

(0084)

Examples of the method for producing a cDNA library from the prepared stroma cell mRNA include methods described in *Molecular Cloning*, Second Edition, *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, etc.; methods using a commercially available

kit, such as SuperScript Plasmid System for cDNA Synthesis and Plasmid Cloning (manufactured by Life Technologies), ZAP-cDNA Synthesis Kit (manufactured by STRATAGENE), *etc.*; and the like.

(0085)

As the vector for producing cDNA library, any of a phage vector, plasmid vector and the like can be used, so long as it can autonomously replicate in a microorganism such as *Escherichia coli* K12 or the like and can express cDNA which is introduced into the host cell.

When a phage is used as the host cell, a transformant to which the prepared cDNA has been introduced can be obtained, for example, by using a commercially available kit Recombinant Phage Antibody System (manufactured by Pharmacia).

(0086)

When prokaryote such as a bacterium or the like is used as the host cell, it is preferred that the recombinant vector comprising the prepared cDNA can autonomously replicate in the prokaryote and is constructed with a promoter, a ribosome binding sequence, the cDNA gene and a transcription termination sequence. A promoter-controlling gene may be contained therein.

(0087)

Examples of the expression vector include pBTrp2, pBTac1 and pBTac2 (manufactured by Boehringer Mannheim), pKK233-2 (manufactured by Pharmacia), pSE280, pSE380 and pSE420 (manufactured by Invitrogen), pAX and pMEX (manufactured by MOBITEC), pGEMEX-1 (manufactured by Promega), pQE-8 (manufactured by QIAGEN), pKYP10 (Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 110600/83), pKYP200 (*Agric. Biol. Chem.*, 48, 669 (1984)), pLSA1 (*Agric. Biol. Chem.*, 53, 277 (1989)), pGEL1 (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 82, 4306 (1985)), pBluescript II SK(-) (manufactured by Stratagene), pTrs30 (prepared from *Escherichia coli* JN109/pTrS30 (FERM BP-5407)), pTrs32 (prepared from *Escherichia coli* JN109/pTrS32 (FERM BP-5408)), pGHA2 (prepared from *Escherichia coli* IGHA2 (FERM B-400), Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 221091/85), pGKA2 (prepared from *Escherichia coli* IGKA2 (FERM BP-6798), Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 221091/85), pTerm2 (US 4686191, US 4939094, US 5160735), pSupex, pUB110, pTP5, pC194 and pEG400 (*J. Bacteriol.*, 172, 2392 (1990)), pGEX (manufactured by Amersham Pharmacia Biotech), pET system (manufactured by Novagen) and the like.

(0088)

As the promoter, any promoter can be used, so long as it can function in a host cell. Examples include promoters derived from *Escherichia coli*, phage and the like, such as *trp* promoter (P_{trp}), *lac* promoter, P_L promoter, P_R promoter, T7 promoter and the like. Also, artificially designed and modified promoters, such as a promoter in which two P_{trp} are linked in series ($P_{trp} \times 2$), *tac* promoter, lacT7 promoter, *letI* promoter and the like, can be used.

A plasmid in which the space between Shine-Dalgarno sequence which is a ribosome binding sequence and the initiation codon is adjusted to a suitable distance (for example, 6 to 18 nucleotides) is preferably used.

(0089)

Examples of the host cell include microorganisms belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, the genus *Serratia*, the genus *Bacillus*, the genus *Brevibacterium*, the genus *Corynebacterium*, the genus *Microbacterium*, the genus *Pseudomonas* and the like. Specific examples include *Escherichia coli* XL1-Blue, *Escherichia coli* XL2-Blue, *Escherichia coli* DH1, *Escherichia coli* MC1000, *Escherichia coli* KY3276, *Escherichia coli* W1485, *Escherichia coli* JM109, *Escherichia coli* HB101, *Escherichia coli* No.49, *Serratia ficaria*, *Serratia fonticola*, *Serratia liquefaciens*, *Serratia marcescens*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, *Brevibacterium ammoniagenes*, *Brevibacterium immariophilum* ATCC 14068, *Brevibacterium saccharolyticum* ATCC 14066, *Brevibacterium glutamicum* ATCC 14067, *Brevibacterium glutamicum* ATCC 13869, *Corynebacterium glutamicum* ATCC 13032, *Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum* ATCC 13870, *Microbacterium ammoniophilum* ATCC 15354, *Pseudomonas* sp. D-0110 and the like.

(0090)

As the method for introducing the recombinant vector, any method can be used, so long as it is a method for introducing DNA into the above host cell. Examples include a method using a calcium ion (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 69, 2110 (1972)), a protoplast method (Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 248394/88), methods described in *Gene*, 17, 107 (1982) and *Molecular & General Genetics*, 168, 111 (1979), and the like.

(0091)

When yeast is used as the host cell, examples of the expression vector include YEP13 (ATCC 37115), YE24 (ATCC 37051), YCp50 (ATCC 37419) and the like.

Any promoter can be used, so long as it can function in yeast. Examples include a promoter of a gene in the glycolysis system such as hexose kinase, *etc.*, PHO5 promoter, PGK promoter, GAP promoter, ADH promoter, gal 1 promoter, gal 10 promoter, a heat shock polypeptide promoter, MF α 1 promoter, CUP 1 promoter and the like.

(0092)

Examples of the host cell include microorganisms belonging to the genus *Saccharomyces*, the genus *Schizosaccharomyces*, the genus *Kluyveromyces*, the genus *Trichosporon*, the genus *Schwanniomyces* and the like. Specific examples include *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Trichosporon pullulans*, *Schwanniomyces alluvius* and the like.

As the method for introducing the recombinant vector, any method can be used, so long as it is a method for introducing DNA into yeast. Examples include electroporation (*Methods in Enzymology*, 194, 182 (1990)), a spheroplast method (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 84, 1929 (1978)), a lithium acetate method (*J. Bacteriology*, 153, 163 (1983)), a method described in *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 75, 1929 (1978) and the like.

(0093)

When an animal cell is used as the host, examples of the expression vector include pcDNA1 and pcDM8 (manufactured by Funakoshi), pAGE107 (Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 22979/91; *Cytotechnology*, 3, 133 (1990)), pAS3-3 (Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 227075/90), pCDM8 (*Nature*, 329, 840 (1987)), EBV Vector (manufactured by Invitrogen), pRc/CMV2 (manufactured by Invitrogen), pRc/RSV (manufactured by Invitrogen), pZeoSV Vector (manufactured by Invitrogen), pcDNA1/amp (manufactured by Invitrogen), pDisplayp (manufactured by Invitrogen), REP4 (manufactured by Invitrogen), pcDNA3.1 Vector (manufactured by Invitrogen), pXT1 (manufactured by Invitrogen), pSG5 (manufactured by Invitrogen), pBK-CMV (manufactured by Stratagene), pBK-RSV (manufactured by Stratagene), pAGE103 (*J. Biochemistry*, 101, 1307 (1987)), pAGE210 and the like.

(0094)

Any promoter can be used, so long as it can function in the animal cell. Examples include a promoter of IE (immediate early) gene of cytomegalovirus (CMV), an early promoter of SV40, a promoter of retrovirus, a metallothionein promoter, a heat

shock promoter, SR α promoter and the like. Also, the enhancer of the IE gene of human CMV can be used together with the promoter.

(0095)

Examples of the host cell include human Namalwa cell, monkey COS cell, Chinese hamster CHO cell, HBT5637 (Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 299/88) and the like.

(0096)

As the method for introducing the recombinant vector, any method can be used, so long as it is a method for introducing DNA into an animal cell. Examples include electroporation (*Cytotechnology*, 3, 133 (1990)), a calcium phosphate method (Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 227075/90), a lipofection method (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 84, 7413 (1987)) and the like.

(0097)

When an insect cell is used as the host, a protein can be expressed by a method described in, for example, *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Baculovirus Expression Vectors, A Laboratory Manual*, W.H. Freeman and Company, New York (1992), *Bio/Technology*, 6, 47 (1988) or the like.

Specifically, a vector for recombinant gene introduction and a baculovirus are cotransfected into an insect cell to thereby obtain a recombinant virus in an insect cell culture supernatant, and then the insect cell is infected with the recombinant virus to express a protein.

(0098)

Examples of the vector for gene introduction used in the method include pVL1392, pVL1393, pBlueBacIII (all manufactured by Invitrogen) and the like.

Examples of the baculovirus include *Autographa californica* nuclear polyhedrosis virus which infects insects of the family *Barathra* and the like.

(0099)

Examples of the insect cell include Sf9 and Sf21 which are *Spodoptera frugiperda* ovary cells (*Baculovirus Expression Vectors, A Laboratory Manual*, W.H. Freeman and Company, New York (1992)), High 5 which is *Trichoplusia ni* ovary cell and the like.

The method for cotransfecting the above vector for recombinant gene introduction and the above baculovirus for the preparation of the recombinant virus include a calcium phosphate method (Japanese Published Unexamined Patent

Application No. 227075/90), a lipofection method (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 84, 7413 (1987)) and the like.

(0100)

When a plant cell is used as the host cell, examples of the expression vector include Ti plasmid, tobacco mosaic virus vector and the like.

As the promoter, any promoter can be used, so long as it can function in a plant cell. Examples include cauliflower mosaic virus (CaMV) 35S promoter, rice actin 1 promoter and the like.

(0101)

Examples of the host cell include plant cells such as tobacco, potato, tomato, carrot, soybean, rape, alfalfa, rice, wheat, barley and the like.

As the method for introducing the recombinant vector, any method can be used, so long as it is a method for introducing DNA into a plant cell. Examples include a method using *Agrobacterium* (Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 140885/84, Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 70080/85, WO94/00977), electroporation (Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 251887/85), a method using a particle gun (gene gun) (Japanese Patent No. 2606856, Japanese Patent No. 2517813) and the like.

(0102)

The thus-obtained transformant is cultured in a medium to express a gene product encoded by the cDNA introduced. Culturing of the transformant in a medium may be carried out according to a method generally carried out in culturing a host.

As a medium for culturing the transformant obtained by using, as the host, prokaryote such as *Escherichia coli* or the like or eukaryote such as yeast or the like, the medium may be either a natural medium or a synthetic medium, so long as it contains a carbon source, a nitrogen source, an inorganic salt and the like which can be assimilated by the organism and the transformant can be cultured efficiently.

(0103)

Any carbon source can be used, so long as it can be assimilated by the organism. Examples include carbohydrates, such as glucose, fructose, sucrose, molasses containing them, starch, starch hydrolysate, *etc.*; organic acids, such as acetic acid, propionic acid, *etc.*; alcohols, such as ethanol, propanol, *etc.*; and the like.

Examples of the nitrogen source include ammonia; ammonium salts of inorganic acids or organic acids, such as ammonium chloride, ammonium sulfate, ammonium acetate, ammonium phosphate, *etc.*, other nitrogen-containing compounds,

peptone, meat extract, yeast extract, corn steep liquor, casein hydrolysate, soybean meal, soybean meal hydrolysate, various fermented cells, hydrolysates thereof and the like.

(0104)

Examples of the inorganic salt include potassium dihydrogen phosphate, dipotassium hydrogen phosphate, magnesium phosphate, magnesium sulfate, sodium chloride, ferrous sulfate, manganese sulfate, copper sulfate, calcium carbonate and the like.

(0105)

Culturing is generally carried out under aerobic conditions by shaking culture, deep aeration stirring culture or the like. The culturing temperature is preferably 15 to 40°C. The culturing time is generally 16 to 7 days. The pH is maintained at 3.0 to 9.0 during culturing. The pH is adjusted using inorganic or organic acid, an alkali solution, urea, calcium carbonate, ammonia or the like.

Also, if necessary, antibiotics such as ampicillin, tetracycline and the like can be added to the medium during culturing.

When a microorganism transformed with an expression vector using an inducible promoter as the promoter is cultured, an inducer may be added to the medium, if necessary. For example, when a microorganism transformed with an expression vector using *lac* promoter is cultured, isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactopyranoside or the like can be added to the medium, and when a microorganism transformed with an expression vector using *trp* promoter is cultured, indoleacrylic acid or the like can be added to the medium.

(0106)

Examples of the medium for culturing a transformant obtained by using an animal cell as the host include generally used RPMI 1640 medium (*The Journal of the American Medical Association*, 199, 519 (1967)), Eagle's MEM (*Science*, 122, 501 (1952)), Dulbecco modified MEM medium (*Virology*, 8, 396 (1959)), 199 Medium (*Proceeding of the Society for the Biological Medicine*, 73, 1 (1950)), media obtained by adding fetal calf serum or the like to these media, and the like.

(0107)

Culturing is generally carried out, for example, at pH of 6 to 8 and at 30 to 40°C for 1 to 7 days in the presence of 5% CO₂.

Furthermore, if necessary, antibiotics such as kanamycin, penicillin and the like can be added to the medium during culturing.

(0108)

Examples of the medium for culturing a transformant obtained by using an insect cell as the host include generally used TNM-FH medium (manufactured by Pharmingen), Sf-900 II SFM (manufactured by Life Technologies), ExCell 400 and ExCell 405 (both manufactured by JRH Biosciences), Grace's Insect Medium (*Nature*, 195, 788 (1962)) and the like.

Culturing is generally carried out, for example, at pH of 6 to 7 and at 25 to 30°C for 1 to 5 days.

Furthermore, if necessary, antibiotics such as gentamicin and the like can be added to the medium during culturing.

(0109)

A transformant obtained by using a plant cell as the host can be used as the cell or after differentiating to a plant cell or organ. Examples of the medium used for culturing the transformant include generally used Murashige and Skoog (MS) medium, White medium, media to which a plant hormone such as auxin, cytokinin or the like has been added, and the like.

Culturing is generally carried out at a pH of 5 to 9 and at 20 to 40°C for 3 to 60 days.

Also, if necessary, antibiotics such as kanamycin, hygromycin and the like can be added to the medium during culturing.

(0110)

As described above, a transformant derived from a microorganism, an animal cell or a plant cell comprising a recombinant vector to which cDNA prepared from a stroma cell used in the present invention has been inserted is cultured according to the generally used culturing method to thereby produce a transformant expressing a gene product encoded by the cDNA.

(0111)

Examples of a method for selecting a transformant which produces a gene product which reacts with the antibody of the present invention include enzyme immunoassay described in *Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1988); *Monoclonal Antibodies; Antibody Engineering; Enzyme Immunoassay*, Third Edition, Igaku Shoin (1987) and the like, a method using a flow cytometer described in *Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1988); *Monoclonal Antibodies; Antibody Engineering; Int. Immunol.*, 10, 275 (1998); *Exp. Hematol.*, 25, 972 (1997) and the like, and the Panning method

described in *Monoclonal Antibodies; Antibody Engineering, J. Immunol.*, 141, 2797 (1988) and the like.

(0112)

As a method for isolating cDNA which has been introduced into the selected transformant, when an expression vector which can autonomously replicate is used in a host cell, the method includes a generally used method which recovers a phage vector or a plasmid vector described in *Molecular Cloning, Second Edition; Current Protocols in Molecular Biology; Mol. Cell. Biol.*, 8, 2837 (1988) and the like, and the Hirt method. When an expression vector which is integrated into a chromosome is used, cDNA which is to be introduced into a host is classified into groups of various kinds (e.g., 100 to 1000 kinds) and pooled, the group which provides the target transformant is classified into groups having few kinds (e.g., 10 to 100 kinds) and pooled, and this classification and pooling are repeated to thereby isolate the target cDNA.

(0113)

The nucleotide sequence of the isolated cDNA is analyzed from its end according to a generally used nucleotide sequence analyzing method such as the dideoxy method of Sanger *et al.* (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 74, 5463 (1977)) or by using a nucleotide sequence analyzing apparatus such as ABIPRISM377DNA sequencer (manufactured by PE Biosystems) or the like to thereby determine the nucleotide sequence of the DNA.

(0114)

As described above, the antigen molecule recognized by the antibody of the present invention can be obtained by using the method for expression cloning.

In the present invention, expression cloning is preferably carried out using a cell having no activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell (for example, as described in Example 3 below).

(0115)

Specific examples include an expression cloning method in which a cell having no activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell is used as the host cell, cDNA prepared from a stroma cell according to the present invention is introduced thereinto and expressed, and the antigen molecule is selected using an antibody which recognizes the stroma cell according to the present invention.

(0116)

Examples of the cell having no activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic system cell into an ectoderm-derived cell include CHO cell derived from Chinese hamster ovary (T.T. Puck *et al.*, *J. Exp. Med.*, 108, 945 (1985)), COS cell derived from African grivet kidney cell (Y. Gluzman, *Cell*, 23, 175 (1981)), MDCK cell derived from a female cocker spaniel kidney (C.R. Gaush *et al.*, *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, 122, 931 (1966); D.S. Misfeldt *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 73, 1212 (1976)) and a rat fibroblast 3Y1 (S. Sandineyer *et al.*, *Cancer Res.*, 41, 830 (1981)). Accordingly, CHO cell, MDCK cell and 3Y1 cell are preferably used, and COS cell which is suitable for expression cloning using an SV40 expression vector is more preferably used.

(0117)

In addition to the expression cloning method, an antibody which recognizes a stroma cell according to the present invention can be used to obtain an antigen molecule recognized by the antibody. Specific examples include a method in which the stroma cell according to the present invention is used as the starting material, the reactivity with the antibody is measured using the above-described enzyme immunoassay, and the antigen can be purified using the measured value as the index.

(0118)

More specifically, stroma cells according to the present invention are recovered by centrifugation and suspended in an aqueous buffer, and then the cells are disrupted with an ultrasonicator, a French press, a Manton Gaulin homogenizer, a Dynomill, surfactant treatment or the like to obtain a cell-free extract. From the supernatant obtained by centrifuging the cell-free extract, an antigen purified product can be obtained by the general method used for isolating and purifying an enzyme, for example, solvent extraction, salting out using ammonium sulfate or the like, desalting, precipitation using an organic solvent, anion exchange chromatography using a resin, such as diethylaminoethyl (DEAE)-Sephacrose, DIAION HPA-75 (manufactured by Mitsubishi Chemical) or the like, cation exchange chromatography using a resin, such as S-Sepharose FF (manufactured by Pharmacia) or the like, hydrophobic chromatography using a resin, such as butyl sepharose, phenyl sepharose or the like, gel filtration using a molecular sieve, affinity chromatography, chromatofocusing, or electrophoresis, such as isoelectronic focusing or the like, alone or in combination thereof.

(0119)

4. Preparation of embryonic stem cell

The embryonic stem cells of the present invention can be prepared according to the method described in a reference (*Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994)).

(0120)

5. Production of embryonic stem cell nuclear-transplanted with the nucleus of somatic cell

An egg transplanted with the nucleus of a somatic cell of a mammal cell and started normal development can be produced in the following manner using a method reported by, e.g., Wilmut *et al.* (*Nature*, 385, 810 (1997)), Cibelli *et al.* (*Science*, 280, 1256 (1998)), A. Iritani *et al.* (*Protein, Nucleic Acid and Enzyme*, 44, 892 (1999)), Baguisi *et al.* (*Nature Biotechnology*, 17, 456 (1999)), Wakayama *et al.* (*Nature*, 394, 369 (1998); *Nature Genetics*, 22, 127 (1999); *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 96, 14984 (1999)) or Rideout III *et al.* (*Nature Genetics*, 24, 109 (2000)).

(0121)

An egg which acquired the nucleus of other somatic cell and started normal development can be obtained by starting its development using a method in which the nucleus of a mammal cell is excised, initialized (an operation to return the nucleus to such a state that it can repeat the development again) and injected into an enucleated unfertilized egg of a mammal, and then incubating the development-started egg.

(0122)

As the method for initializing the nucleus of a somatic cell, several methods are known. For example, the following methods are known.

The initialization can be carried out by changing the medium for culturing a nuclear donor side cell from a medium containing from 5 to 30%, preferably 10%, of fetal calf serum (e.g., M2 medium) to a poor nutrient medium containing from 0 to 1%, preferably 0.5%, of fetal calf serum and culturing the cell for a period of from 3 to 10 days, preferably 5 days, thereby to induce the cell cycle into an interphase state (G0 phase or G1 phase). This method is suitable, for example, when the mammal is sheep, goat or cattle. Also, the initialization can be carried out by injecting the nucleus of a nucleus donor side cell into an enucleated unfertilized egg of a mammal of the same species and incubating the egg for several hours, preferably from about 1 to 6 hours. This method is suitable, for example, when the mammal is a mouse.

(0123)

The thus initialized nucleus becomes possible to start its development in an enucleated unfertilized egg. Several methods are known as the method for starting development of the initialized nucleus in an enucleated unfertilized egg. The development can be started by transplanting a nucleus initialized by inducing the cell cycle into an interphase state (G0 phase or G1 phase) into an enucleated unfertilized egg of a mammal of the same species, e.g., by electrofusion to thereby activate the egg. This method is suitable, for example, when the mammal is sheep, goat or cattle. Development of the nucleus initialized by injecting it into an enucleated unfertilized egg of a mammal of the same species can be carried out by again transplanting it into an enucleated unfertilized egg of a mammal of the same species, for example, using a method which uses a micromanipulator, stimulating it with an egg activating factor (e.g., strontium) and then treating it with a cell division inhibitor (e.g., cytochalasin B) to inhibit release of a secondary polar body. This method is suitable, for example, when the mammal is a mouse.

(0124)

Once an egg which started the development is obtained, the embryonic stem cell can be obtained by a known method described in, for example, *Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994); *Gene Targeting, A Practical Approach*, IRL Press at Oxford University Press (1993); *Biomanual Series 8, Gene Targeting, Production of Mutation Mouse Using ES Cell*, Yodo-sha (1995) and the like.

(0125)

6. Production of embryonic stem cell in which gene on its chromosome is modified

An embryonic stem cell in which a gene on its chromosome is modified can be produced by using homologous recombination techniques.

Examples of the chromosomal gene to be modified include genes for histocompatibility antigens and genes related to diseases caused by disorders of nervous system cells or epidermal system cells.

Modification of the target gene on the chromosome can be carried out using a method described in, for example, *Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994); *Gene Targeting, A Practical Approach*, IRL Press at Oxford University Press (1993); *Biomanual Series 8, Gene Targeting, Production of Mutation Mouse Using ES Cell*, Yodo-sha (1995) and the like.

(0126)

Specifically, a genomic gene of the target gene to be modified (e.g., a histocompatibility antigen gene or a disease-related gene) is isolated.

A target vector for homologous recombination of the target gene is produced using the isolated genomic gene.

An embryonic stem cell having a modified chromosomal gene can be produced by introducing the thus produced target vector into embryonic stem cells and selecting a cell in which homologous recombination occurred between the target gene and the target vector.

(0127)

Examples of the method for isolating genomic gene of the target gene include a known method described in *Molecular Cloning*, Second Edition or in *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology* and the like. The genomic gene of the target gene can also be isolated, for example, using Genome DNA Library Screening System (manufactured by Genome Systems) or Universal GenomeWalker™ Kits (manufactured by CLONTECH).

The target vector for carrying out homologous recombination of the target gene can be produced by using the method described in, for example, *Gene Targeting, A Practical Approach*, IRL Press at Oxford University Press (1993); *Biomanual Series 8, Gene Targeting, Production of Mutation Mouse Using ES Cell*, Yodo-sha (1995) and the like. As the target vector, any one of its replacement type and insertion type can be used.

(0128)

Examples of a method for efficiently selecting a homologous recombinant include a method such as the positive selection, promoter selection, negative selection or poly(A) selection described in, for example, *Gene Targeting, A Practical Approach*, IRL Press at Oxford University Press (1993); *Biomanual Series 8, Gene Targeting, Production of Mutation Mouse Using ES Cell*, Yodo-sha (1995) and the like. Examples of the method for the selection of the homologous recombinant of interest from the selected cell lines include the Southern hybridization for genomic DNA (*Molecular Cloning*, Second Edition), PCR (*PCT Protocols*, Academic Press (1990)) and the like.

(0129)

7. Production of medium

With regard to the medium of the present invention used in the method for differentiation-inducing an ectodermal cell and ectoderm-derived cell from an

embryonic stem cell, a medium usually used in culturing of animal cells can be prepared as a basal medium.

As the basal medium, any medium available the culturing of animal cells can be used. Examples include BME medium (*Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, 89, 363 (1965)), BGJb medium (*Exp. Cell Res.*, 25, 41 (1961)), CMRL 1066 medium (*N.Y. Academy of Science*, 5, 303 (1957)), Glasgow MEM medium (*Virology*, 16, 147 (1962)), Improved MEM Zinc Option medium (*J. National Cancer Inst.*, 49, 1705 (1972)), IMDM medium (*In Vitro*, 9, 6 (1970)), Medium 199 medium (*Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, 73, 1 (1950)), Eagle's MEM medium (*Science*, 130, 432 (1959)), Alpha MEM medium (*Nature New Biology*, 230, 310 (1971)), Dulbecco's MEM medium (*Virology*, 8, 396 (1959)), Ham's medium (*Exp. Cell Res.*, 29, 515 (1963); *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 53, 288 (1965)), RPMI 1640 medium (*J. A. M. A.*, 199, 519 (1967)), Fischer's medium (*Methods in Med. Res.*, 10 (1964)), McCoy's medium (*Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, 100, 115 (1959)), William's E medium (*Exp. Cell Res.*, 69, 106 (1971); *Exp. Cell Res.*, 89, 139 (1974)), a mixed medium thereof and the like.

(0130)

Also, any of the embryo culturing media described, e.g., in *Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994) and *Methods in Enzymology*, volume 225, Guide to Techniques in Mouse Development, Academic Press (1993); *Biomannual Series 8, Gene Targeting, Production of Mutation Mouse Using ES Cell*, Yodo-sha (1995), such as M2 medium, M16 medium, Whitten medium and *in vitro* fertilization medium, can be used as a basal medium, so long as it can be used in embryo culturing.

(0131)

Moreover, any one of media produced by adding various growth factors as serum substitutes, or a factor produced, e.g., by a stroma cell, to these basal medium, or a protein-free medium capable of culturing animal cells and embryo can also be used as the medium of the present invention. Specific examples include a serum-free medium to which commercially available KNOCKOUT™ SR is added (M.D. Goldsborough *et al.*, *Focus*, 20, 8 (1998)), a serum-free medium to which insulin and transferrin are added (e.g., CHO-S-SFM II (manufactured by GIBCO BRL), Hybridoma-SFM (manufactured by GIBCO BRL), eRDF Dry Powdered Media (manufactured by GIBCO BRL), UltraCULTURE™ (manufactured by BioWhittaker), UltraDOMA™ (manufactured by BioWhittaker), UltraCHO™ (manufactured by BioWhittaker), UltraMDCK™ (manufactured by BioWhittaker), ITPSG medium (S. Hosoi *et al.*,

Cytotechnology, 5, S17 (1991)), ITSFn medium (A. Rizzino and C. Growley, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 77, 457 (1980)) or mN3 medium (S. Okabe *et al.*, *Mech. Dev.*, 59, 89 (1996)), a medium to which a cell-derived factor is added (e.g., a medium to which a culture supernatant of a pluripotency teratocarcinoma cell PSA1 is added (G.R. Martin, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 78, 7634 (1981)), a medium which contains a culture filtrate of the stroma cell described in the following item 4, a medium which contains a factor produced by the stroma cell described in the following item 5, a medium which contains an antigen component obtained in the following item 8, a medium which contains BMP4 and a protein-free medium (e.g., CD-CHO (manufactured by GIBCO BRL), PFHM-II (manufactured by GIBCO BRL) or UltraDOMA-PFTM (manufactured by BioWhittaker)).

(0132)

8. Application of method for inducing differentiation, cell, antibody and antigen

(1) Method for evaluating or screening substance using the method for inducing differentiation of the present invention

The method of the present invention for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or ectoderm-derived cell is useful for the pharmacological evaluation and activity evaluation of substances such as a physiologically active substance (for example, a drug) and a novel gene product whose functions are unknown, in the differentiation process of these cells or in the cell function regulation. It is also useful for the function evaluation of a gene in the differentiation method of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or ectoderm-derived cell, by using an embryonic stem cell in which the specified gene is modified.

(0133)

For example, the application method of the culturing method of the present invention are shown below.

According to the method for inducing differentiation of the present invention, influences upon the differentiation process into an ectodermal cell or ectoderm-derived cell or upon the functional regulation of an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell of a test substance added to the medium can be evaluated. Any substance can be used as the substance to be tested, so long as it can be added to the culturing system. Examples include a low molecular weight compound, a high molecular weight compound, an organic compound, an inorganic compound, a protein, a gene, a virus, a cell and the like. The substances to be tested, excluding genes, may be added directly to the culture medium.

(0134)

Examples of the method for efficiently introducing a gene into the culture system include a method in which the gene is added to the culture system by carrying it on a virus vector such as retrovirus, adenovirus, adeno-associated virus, herpes simplex virus or lentivirus and a method in which it is added to the culture system by including into an artificial vesicle structure such as liposome. Specific examples include reports on the analysis of genes using recombinant virus vectors (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 92, 6733 (1995); *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 18, 3587 (1990); *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 23, 3816 (1995)).

These substances to be tested can be added to the culture system in the differentiation induction method at any stage, for example, each substance to be tested can be evaluated by adding it at a relatively early stage of the culturing when it is necessary to evaluate its action on a differentiation step of the stem cell into an ectodermal cell, or at a relatively latter stage of culturing when it is necessary to evaluate its action on a differentiation step of an ectodermal cell into an ectoderm-derived cell. In order to judge the differentiating degree in the culture system, it can be understood by examining expression of a marker protein of respective differentiated cell formed as a result of its differentiation from the embryonic stem cell. The evaluation or screening of a substance to be tested can be carried out, e.g., by measuring qualitative or quantitative changes in the differentiation efficiency into an ectodermal cell or ectoderm-derived cell after a predetermined period of culturing. Examples of the method for measuring qualitative changes include a method in which van Inzen *et al.* have measured the action potential using a nerve cell differentiation-induced from an embryonic stem cell (*Biochim. Biophys. Acta.*, 1312, 21 (1996)).

(0135)

(2) Cell-containing medicament

The stroma cell used in the present invention or factors derived from the stroma cell of the present invention, or an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell obtained by carrying out differentiation induction of an embryonic cell using them, can be used as a medicament for treating, diagnosing or preventing diseases caused by the disorder of ectoderm-derived cells.

Examples of the disease cause by the disorder of ectoderm-derived cells include diseases caused by the disorder of nervous system cells or epidermal system cells.

Examples of the disease caused by the disorder of nervous system cells include Alzheimer disease, Huntington chorea, Parkinson disease, ischemic cerebral disease, epilepsy, brain injury, vertebral injury, motor neuron disease, neurodegeneration disease, pigmentary retinal dystrophy, cochlear hearing loss, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a disease due to a neurotoxin damage and the like. Examples of the disease caused by the disorder of epidermal system cells include burn, wound, healing of wound, compression gangrene, psoriasis and the like.
(0136)

Examples of the therapeutic agent for diseases caused by the disorder of ectoderm-derived cells include a cell having the same function of the cell which caused a disorder, a precursor of the cell which caused a disorder, a cell which can compensate function of the disordered cell or a cell having a function to accelerate regeneration of the disordered cell, which can be applied to the transplantation medical treatment.

The therapeutic agent of the present invention can be produced by purifying an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell obtained by its differentiation induction from an embryonic stem cell according to the method of the present invention. The stroma cell can be prepared according to the method of the above item 1, and the stroma cell-derived factor can be prepared according to the method of the above item 9.
(0137)

Any one of the already known methods for purifying cells can be used as the method for increasing purity of cells. Examples include a method using a flow cytometer described in, for example, *Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1988), *Monoclonal Antibodies, Antibody Engineering, Int. Immunol.*, 10, 275 (1998), *Exp. Hematol.*, 25, 972 (1997) or the like, a panning method described in, for example, *Monoclonal Antibodies, Antibody Engineering, J. Immunol.*, 141, 2797 (1988) or the like, and a cell fractionation method using density difference of sucrose concentration described in, for example, *Techniques of Tissue Culture* (Third Edition), Asakura Shoten (1996).
(0138)

The therapeutic agent of the present invention may further contain pharmaceutically acceptable physiological saline, additives and/or a medium, in addition to the cells, but since it is used for the purpose of carrying out a transplantation medical treatment, it is preferable to avoid contamination of impurities such as sera, viruses and the like. A therapeutic agent comprising the factor from a stroma cell is produced by the method of the following item 8(4), but it is preferable to avoid

contamination of impurities such as sera and viruses similar to the case of the cell-containing therapeutic agent. According to the method of the present invention, differentiation of an ectodermal cell and an ectoderm-derived cell can be induced under serum-free culture conditions and without requiring an agent for inducing differentiation such as retinoic acid at a non-physiological concentration, so that it is useful in transplantation medical treatments.

(0139)

In the transplantation medical treatment, rejection due to difference in the histocompatibility antigens sometimes causes a problem, but this problem can be resolved by using the embryonic stem cell described in the item 5 into which the nucleus of a somatic cell has been transplanted or the embryonic stem cell described in the item 6 in which a gene on the chromosome has been modified.

Also, an ectodermal cell and an ectoderm-derived cell of a somatic cell-donated individual can be obtained by carrying out differentiation induction using the embryonic stem cell described in the item 5 into which the nucleus of a somatic cell has been transplanted. Such a cell of individual person is useful not only as a transplantation medical treatment of the cell itself but also as a diagnosing material for judging whether or not an existing agent is effective for the person. Also, since sensitivities to oxidation stress and aging can be judged by culturing a differentiation-induced cell for a prolonged period of time, risk of individual person for a disease such as a nerve degeneration disease can be evaluated by comparing its function and life with those of a cell derived from other individual, and the evaluation data are useful for providing an effective method for preventing a disease which is diagnosed as high in its future morbidity rate.

(0140)

As the transplantation method, any method can be used, so long as it is a method suitable for the disease to be treated, and methods suitable for respective diseases are known. For example, an embryonic stem cell is collected from a patient and mixed with a stroma cell and a stroma cell-derived factor, and the resulting embryonic stem cell is cultured. The disease can be treated by inducing differentiation of an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell from the embryonic stem cell and then transplanting the resulting cell into the affected part of the patient. Alternatively, the disease can also be treated by directly administering a stroma cell and a stroma cell-derived factor into the affected part of the patient. Examples of a method for

transplanting a brain cell of an abortion fetus into a patient of Parkinson disease include the method described in, e.g., *Nature Neuroscience*, 2, 1137 (1999) and the like.

(0141)

(3) Method for immunologically detecting antigen using antibody, and medicament comprising the antibody

An antigen of the present invention or a tissue containing the antigen can be immunologically detected by allowing it to carry out an antigen-antibody reaction using an antibody which specifically recognizes the stroma cell of the present invention having activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell. The detection method and a medicament comprising the antibody can be applied to the diagnosis of diseases caused by the reduction or disappearance of functions of the stroma cell, such as diseases induced by the disorder of ectoderm-derived cells. This detection method can also be used in the determination of antigens.

Examples of the disease cause by the disorder of ectoderm-derived cells include diseases caused by the disorder of nervous system cells or epidermal system cells.

Examples of the disease caused by the disorder of nervous system cells include Alzheimer disease, Huntington chorea, Parkinson disease, ischemic cerebral disease, epilepsy, brain injury, vertebral injury, motor neuron disease, neurodegeneration disease, pigmentary retinal dystrophy, cochlear hearing loss, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a disease due to a neurotoxin damage and the like. Examples of the disease caused by the disorder of epidermal system cells include burn, wound, healing of wound, compression gangrene, psoriasis and the like.

(0142)

Examples of the immunological detection method include ELISA using a microtiter plate, an immunofluorescent method, Western blotting, tissue immunostaining and the like. Examples of the immunological determination method include sandwich ELISA using two antibodies having different epitopes, among antibodies which react in a liquid phase with the antigen of the present invention, radioimmunoassay using the antigen of the present invention labeled with a radioisotope such as ^{125}I and an antibody which recognizes the antigen of the present invention, and the like.

(0143)

(4) Medicament comprising antigen

An antigen molecule which is recognized by the antibody of the present invention and is specifically expressed in a stroma cell having activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell or an ectoderm-derived cell can be used as a therapeutic agent for diseases caused by the disorder of ectoderm-derived cells.

Examples of the diseases caused by the disorder of ectoderm-derived cells include diseases caused by the disorder of a nervous system cell or an epidermal system cell.

(0144)

Examples of the disease caused by the disorder of nervous system cells include Alzheimer disease, Huntington chorea, Parkinson disease, ischemic cerebral disease, epilepsy, brain injury, vertebral injury, motor neuron disease, neurodegeneration disease, pigmentary retinal dystrophy, cochlear hearing loss, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a disease due to a neurotoxin damage and the like. Examples of the disease caused by the disorder of epidermal system cells include burn, wound, healing of wound, compression gangrene, psoriasis and the like.

(0145)

The medicament comprising the agent for inducing differentiation of the present invention as the active ingredient can be administered by the active ingredient alone, but generally, it is preferable to provide the active ingredient as a pharmaceutical production produced by an optional method well known in the technical field of manufacturing pharmacy, by mixing it with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. Preferably, a sterile solution produced by dissolving it in an aqueous carrier such as water or an aqueous solution of sodium chloride, glycine, glucose, human albumin or the like is used. Also, pharmaceutically acceptable additives including a buffering agent and a tonicity agent for use in resembling the pharmaceutical production solution to physiological conditions, such as sodium acetate, sodium chloride, sodium lactate, potassium chloride, sodium citrate or the like, can be added. Also, it is possible to store the production by freeze-drying and use it by dissolving in an appropriate solvent when used.

(0146)

It is preferable to use a route of administration which is most effective in carrying out a treatment. Examples include oral administration and parenteral administration such as buccal, airway, rectal, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous

administration and the like. Examples of the dosage form include sprays, capsules, tablets, granules, syrups, emulsions, suppositories, injections, ointments, tapes and the like.

(0147)

Examples of the pharmaceutical production suitable for oral administration include emulsions, syrups, capsules, tablets, powders, granules and the like. For example, liquid productions such as emulsions, syrups and the like can be produced using, as additives, water, saccharides such as sucrose, sorbitol, fructose, *etc.*; glycols such as polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, *etc.*; oils such as sesame oil, olive oil, soybean oil, *etc.*; antiseptics such as p-hydroxybenzoic acid esters, *etc.*; flavors such as strawberry flavor, peppermint flavor, *etc.*; and the like. Capsules, tablets, powders and granules can be produced using, as additives, fillers such as lactose, glucose, sucrose, mannitol, *etc.*; disintegrating agents such as starch sodium alginate, *etc.*; lubricants such as magnesium stearate, talc, *etc.*; binders such as polyvinyl alcohol, hydroxypropylcellulose, gelatin, *etc.*; surfactants such as a fatty acid ester, *etc.*; plasticizers such as glycerol, *etc.*; and the like.

(0148)

Examples of the pharmaceutical production suitable for parenteral administration include injections, suppositories, sprays and the like. For example, injections are produced using a carrier such as a salt solution, a glucose solution, a mixture of thereof and the like. Suppositories are produced using a carrier such as cacao butter, hydrogenated fat, carboxylic acid or the like. Also, sprays are produced using the active ingredient as such or using a carrier which does not stimulate the buccal or airway mucous membrane of the patient and can facilitate absorption of the active ingredient by dispersing it as fine particles. Specific examples of the carrier include lactose, glycerine and the like. Depending on the properties of the active ingredient and the carrier, it is possible to produce other pharmaceutical productions such as aerosols, dry powders and the like. In addition, the components exemplified as additives for oral productions can also be added to these parenteral productions.

Although the clinical dose or the frequency of administration varies depending on various conditions such as the intended therapeutic effect, administration method, treating period, age and body weight, it is usually from 10 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ to 8 mg/kg per

(0149)

9. Method for obtaining stroma cell-derived factor having activity of inducing differentiation of embryonic stem cell into ectoderm-derived cell

A factor having activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell can be obtained from the stroma cell of the present invention. Specifically, it can be carried out using an expression cloning method described in, e.g., *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1989) (hereinafter referred to as "*Molecular Cloning*, Second Edition"), *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Monoclonal Antibodies: principles and practice*, Third Edition, Acad. Press (1993) (hereinafter referred to as *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*), *Antibody Engineering, A Practical Approach*, IRL Press at Oxford University Press (1996), or the like.

(0150)

Specifically, for example, cDNA is produced from the stroma cell of the present invention.

The cDNA is inserted into downstream of the promoter of an appropriate expression vector to prepare a recombinant vector and a cDNA library.

Transformants which produce gene products produced by the stroma cell of the present invention are obtained by introducing the recombinant vector into a host cell suitable for the expression vector.

A transformant which produces a gene product having activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell is selected therefrom.

A factor having activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell can be obtained by determining the gene sequence encoded by the cDNA introduced into the selected transformant. This procedure is described in detail below.

(0151)

As the host cell, a cell which does not have the activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell is preferred. Specific examples include a Chinese hamster ovary-derived CHO cell (T.T. Puck *et al.*, *J. Exp. Med.*, 108, 945 (1985)), a female cocker spaniel kidney-derived MDCK cell (C.R. Gaush *et al.*, *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, 122, 931 (1966); D.S. Misfeldt *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 73, 1212 (1976)), a rat fibroblast 3Y1 (S. Sandineyer *et al.*, *Cancer Res.*, 41, 830 (1981)) and a green monkey kidney-derived COS cell (Y.

Gluzman, *Cell*, 23, 175 (1981)). Among these, the COS cell which is suitable for expression cloning using an SV40 expression vector is preferred.

(0152)

As the cell to be used in the production of cDNA, a stroma cell having activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell is preferred. Specific examples include a fetal primary culture fibroblast (*Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994); *Biomanual Series 8, Gene Targeting, Production of Mutation Mouse Using ES Cell*, Yodo-sha (1995)) and an SIHM mouse-derived STO cell (G. Martin, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 78, 7634 (1981)); M.J. Evans *et al.*, *Nature*, 292, 154 (1981), more preferably a mouse fetus-derived NIH/3T3 cell (J.L. Jainchill *et al.*, *J. Virol.*, 4, 549 (1969)), an M-CSF deficient mouse calvaria-derived OP9 cell (T. Nakano *et al.*, *Science*, 272, 722 (1996)) and a mouse calvaria-derived MC3T3-G2/PA6 cell (H. Kodama *et al.*, *J. Cell. Physiol.*, 112, 89 (1982)).

(0153)

The method for preparing a cDNA library includes a method which will be described later in item 8. The thus produced cDNA library may be used as such, but, in order to concentrate the target gene, a cDNA library produced by carrying out a subtraction method (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 85, 5783 (1988)) using mRNA of a cell which does not have activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell can also be used.

Examples of a method for introducing a recombinant vector, a method for obtaining a transformant and a method for culturing the thus obtained transformant using a medium include the methods described in the following item 3.

(0154)

In the method for inducing differentiation of the present invention, a transformant which produces a gene product having activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell can be selected by carrying out coculturing of the embryonic cell and the transformant.

Examples of a method for isolating cDNA introduced into the selected transformant and a method for determining gene sequence of the isolated cDNA include the methods described in the following item 3.

(0155)

A stroma cell-derived factor having activity of inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell can also be obtained by a method

other than the expression cloning method. Specifically, it can be purified using an effect to accelerate differentiation induction of an embryonic stem cell into an ectoderm-derived cell as an indication of the purification when the stroma cell of the present invention is used as the starting material and added to the medium.

Examples of the purification method include the method described in the following item 3.

Examples of the animals used in the present invention include vertebral animals, particularly warm-blooded animals, and more particularly mammals such as mouse, rat, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, cat, dog, sheep, pig, cattle, goat, monkey, human and the like.

The present invention is described more specifically based on the following examples, but these examples show only illustrations of the present invention and do not limit the scope of the present invention.

(0156)

(Examples)

Example 1 Differentiation of embryonic stem cell into dopaminergic neuron:

An embryonic stem cell, ES cell EB5 (H. Niwa *et al.*, *Nature Genet.*, 24, 372 (2000); obtained from Dr. Niwa at Department of Molecular Applied Medicine, Medical School of Osaka University) was cocultured with a stroma cell, MC3T3-G2/PA6 cell (H. Kodama *et al.*, *J. Cell Physiol.*, 112, 89 (1982), hereinafter referred to as "PA6 cell"), or with a mouse fetal primary culture fibroblast (hereinafter referred to as "MEF").

Since the ES cell EB5 is gene-transferred in such a manner that a drug-resistant gene blastocidine-R is expressed in downstream region of an undifferentiation-specific promoter (Oct3 promoter, E. Pikarsky *et al.*, *Mol. Cell. Biol.*, 14, 1026 (1994)), undifferentiated ES cell alone can be selected and maintained by culturing it by adding 20 µg/ml of blastocidine. The ES cell EB5 was used in the present invention after confirming that it survived and maintained the undifferentiated state during the testing period in a medium to which 20 µg/ml of blastocidine had been added.

The ES cell EB5 was cultured on a gelatin-coated plastic culture dish using Dulbecco's MEM medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (ES cell-qualified; manufactured by Litech Oriental), 2 mM glutamine, 100 µM MEM non-essential amino acids solution, 50 U/ml penicillin, 50 U/ml streptomycin, 100 µM 2-mercaptoethanol and 1,000 U/ml LIF (ESGRO Murine LIF; manufactured by Litech Oriental), while keeping the undifferentiated characters according to the method

described in *Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994).

(0157)

The PA6 cell was cultured according to the method of Kodama *et al.* (H. Kodama *et al.*, *J. Cell Physiol.*, 112, 89 (1982)) using α -MEM medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum (manufactured by GIBCO-BRL).

The MEF was prepared and cultured according to the method described in *Manipulating the Mouse Embryo, A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1994), using Dulbecco's MEM medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (ES cell-qualified; manufactured by Litech Oriental), 2 mM glutamine, 50 U/ml penicillin and 50 U/ml streptomycin.

(0158)

Differentiation of the ES cell was induced by coculturing the ES cell in a single cell state (conditions in which individual cells are separated without mutual adhesion of cells, e.g., with an enzyme digestion) with the PA6 cell or MEF cell.

The ES cell EB5 was proliferated to a 30% confluent by exchanging the medium. After removing the medium, the cells were washed twice using PBS(-) and then cultured at 37°C for 20 minutes by adding PBS(-) containing 1 mM EDTA and 0.25% trypsin. The culture broth was suspended in a medium (hereinafter referred to as "serum-free medium") produced by adding 10% KNOCKOUT SR (manufactured by GIBCO BRL), 2 mM glutamine, 100 μ M MEM non-essential amino acids solution, 1 mM pyruvic acid, 50 U/ml penicillin, 50 U/ml streptomycin and 100 μ M 2-mercaptoethanol to the Glasgow MEM medium. The suspension was centrifuged at 4°C and at 200 \times g for five minutes, and the precipitated cells were suspended again in the serum-free medium to prepare the ES cell EB5 in a single cell state.

(0159)

The PA6 cell or MEF cell whose cell density reached almost confluent by exchanging the medium in advance was washed twice using PBS(-) and then suspended in the serum-free medium to prepare as feeder cells.

(0160)

The ES cell EB5 in a single cell state was inoculated at a cell density of 10 to 100 cells/cm² into a culture vessel in which the thus produced PA6 cell was cultured, the medium was exchanged using a fresh serum-free medium on the 4th, 6th and 7th day, and then the cells were cultured at 37°C for 8 days in a stream of 5% carbon

dioxide in a CO₂ incubator. As a control, the ES cell was inoculated in the same manner into a simply gelatin-coated culture vessel and cultured in the same manner.

Eight days after coculturing, the medium was removed and the cells were fixed for 30 minutes by adding 4% p-formaldehyde solution. The thus fixed cells were immunologically stained according to the method described in *Using Antibodies*, Cold Harbor Laboratory Press (1999), using an antibody against a typical neuron marker NCAM (manufactured by Chemicon, hereinafter referred to as "anti-NCAM antibody"), an antibody against a neuron-specific marker class III β tubulin (manufactured by Babco, hereinafter referred to as "anti-tubulin antibody") and an antibody against a neural precursor cell-specific marker nestin (manufactured by Pharmingen, hereinafter referred to as "anti-nestin antibody").

After culturing similarly for 10 days, the immunological staining was carried out by using an antibody against a dopaminergic neuron marker tyrosine hydroxylase (manufactured by Chemicon), an antibody against a cholinergic neuron marker VAChT (manufactured by Chemicon), an antibody against a GABAergic neuron marker GAD (manufactured by Chemicon), an antibody against a serotonergic neuron marker serotonin (manufactured by Dia Sorin) or an antibody against a noradrenaline neuron marker dopamine β -hydroxylase (manufactured by PROTOS Biotech).

Using a 3 cm dish for tissue culture (made of plastic, manufactured by FALCON) as a culturing vessel, 200 cells of the ES cell EB5 were cultured by inoculating them into each of 1) the dish produced using the PA6 cell as a feeder cell, 2) the dish produced using the MEF cell as a feeder cell and 3) the dish simply coated with gelatin, with the results shown in the drawings.

Cells of the ES cell EB5 inoculated in a single cell state adhered to the feeder cells or to the dish surface without causing mutual aggregation, repeated cell division and formed colonies (hereinafter referred to as "ES cell-derived colonies" or simply as "colonies").

(0161)

Fig. 1 shows a result of staining of the colonies formed by the coculturing with PA6 cell, with (A) NCAM, (B) tubulin or (C) anti-nestin antibody. Fig. 2 shows a result of staining of the colonies formed by the coculturing with MEF cell, with the NCAM antibody. Fig. 3 shows a result of staining of the colonies formed by the coculturing with PA6 cell, with an antibody against tyrosine hydroxylase. Fig. 4 shows periodical changes in the ratio of each marker-positive colonies among colonies formed by the coculturing with PA6 cell. The ratio of colonies was calculated by

preparing 160 dishes cocultured under each of the conditions 1), 2) and 3) and observing staining strength of all of the formed colonies under a microscope.

(0169)

In the coculture system of the condition 1) in which the PA6 cell was prepared as a feeder cell, 90% (n = 160) of colonies derived from the ES cell EB5 were strongly NCAM-positive as shown in Fig. 1A. These colonies were staining-positive with both of the tubulin antibody (Fig. 1B) and nestin antibody (Fig. 1C). On the other hand, the appearance of significant neuron markers was not found by coculturing with MEF cell as the condition 2) (Fig. 2). The colonies cultured on the gelatin-coated culture vessel showed the same staining result of the colonies formed by coculturing with MEF cell as the condition 2). In the coculture system of the condition 1) in which the PA6 cell was prepared as a feeder cell, anti-tyrosine hydrolase antibody-positive colonies derived from the ES cell were found at a high frequency (89%) (Fig. 3). As a result of coculturing of PA6 cell with ES cell EB5, nestin-positive colonies appeared 3 days, and tubulin-positive colonies 4 days, after starting of the coculturing, periodically as shown in Fig. 4. Also, 5 days after, tyrosine hydrolase-positive colonies appeared, and 10 days after, they reached the peak. During this period, the immunological staining with the antibody against a noradrenaline neuron marker dopamine β -hydroxylase was negative. Ten days thereafter, cholinergic neuron marker VAChT-positive colonies were formed at a frequency of 5%, GABAergic neuron marker GAD-positive colonies at a frequency of 15% and serotonin-positive colonies at 4%.

Also, a result similar to the above was obtained when coculturing was carried out using a typical ES cell, 129 line mouse-derived CCE cell (M.R. Kuehn *et al.*, *Nature*, 326, 295 (1987); *Biomannual Series 8, Gene Targeting, Production of Mutation Mouse Using ES Cell*, Yodo-sha (1995)).

(0170)

Example 2 Differentiation of embryonic stem cell into non-neuroectodermal cell:

A medium was produced by adding 0.5 nmol/l BMP4 (manufactured by R & D) to the serum-free medium described in Example 1. The ES cell EB5 was cocultured with PA6 cell according to the method described in Example 1, using the thus produced BMP4-added serum-free medium instead of the serum-free medium used in Example 1. Eight days after culturing, immunological cell staining was carried out using the NCAM antibody, the nestin antibody or an antibody against a non-neural ectoderm cell marker E cadherin (manufactured by Takara Shuzo). As a control,

coculturing was carried out using the serum-free medium without BMP4. The results are shown in Figs. 5A, B, C, D, E and F.

(0164)

Also, 8 days after culturing using the BMP4-added serum-free medium, the medium was changed to Glasgow MEM medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum (manufactured by GIBCO BRL), followed by culturing for 3 days. The thus cultured cells were fixed for 30 minutes by adding 4% p-formaldehyde and immunologically stained using an antibody against a skin epidermis cell marker keratin 14 (manufactured by Biomedica), and the results were compared with those in which culturing was continued for additional 3 days using the bovine serum-free medium, with the results shown in Figs. 5G, H and I.

(0165)

As shown in Example 1, when the medium without BMP4 was used, the ES cell-derived colonies were strongly anti-NCAM antibody-positive (Fig. 5A) and strongly anti-nestin antibody-positive (Fig. 5B), whereas the number of E cadherin-positive colonies was small (18%) (Fig. 5C). On the other hand, when the BMP4-added serum-free medium was used, the ES cell-derived colonies were NCAM antibody-negative (Fig. 5D) and nestin antibody-negative (Fig. 5E), whereas E cadherin-positive colonies appeared at a high frequency (98%) (Fig. 5F). Keratin 14-positive colonies were not formed when the medium without no BMP4 was used (Fig. 5G), whereas they appeared when the BMP4-added serum-free medium was used at a frequency of 34% (Fig. 5H). When culturing was carried out for 8 days using the BMP4-added serum-free medium and then for next 3 days using the Glasgow MEM medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum, both of the frequency of keratin 14-positive colonies (47%) and the colony size significantly increased (Fig. 5I).

Also, a result similar to the above was obtained in the case using a typical ES cell, 129 line mouse-derived CCE cell (M.R. Kuehn *et al.*, *Nature*, 326, 295 (1987); *Biomannual Series 8, Gene Targeting, Production of Mutation Mouse Using ES Cell*, Yodo-sha (1995)).

(0166)

Example 3 Selection of stroma cell having activity of inducing differentiation of embryonic cell into dopaminergic neuron:

ES cell EB5 was cocultured with PA6 cell, MEF cell, STO cell, NIH/3T3 cell, OP9 cell, CHO cell, MDCK cell, 3Y1 cell or COS cell (hereinafter referred to as "respective cells").

The STO cell was cultured according to the method described by Evans *et al.* (M.J. Evans *et al.*, *Nature*, 292, 154 (1981)). The NIH/3T3 cell was cultured according to the method described by Jainchill *et al.* (J.L. Jainchill *et al.*, *J. Virol*, 4, 549 (1969)). The OP9 cell was cultured according to the method described by Nakano *et al.* (T. Nakano *et al.*, *Science*, 272, 722 (1996)). The CHO cell was cultured according to the method described by Puck *et al.* (T.T. Puck *et al.*, *J. Exp. Med.*, 108, 945 (1985)). The MDCK cell was cultured according to the method described by Misfeldt *et al.* (D.S. Misfeldt *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 73, 1212 (1976)). The 3Y1 cell was cultured according to the method described by Sandineyer *et al.* (S. Sandineyer *et al.*, *Cancer Res.*, 41, 830 (1981)). The COS cell was cultured according to the method described by Gluzman (*Cell*, 23, 175 (1981)).

(0167)

According to the method described in Example 1, the respective cells and ES cell EB5 were cocultured for 8 days and immunologically stained with the NCAM antibody, and the ratio of positive ES cell-derived colonies was examined. As a result, the PA6 cell, OP9 cell and NIH/3T3 cell showed positive ratios of 95%, 45% and 10%, respectively, so that it was confirmed that these cells have significant nerve differentiation-inducing activity for the ES cell. On the other hand, other cells did not show significant nerve differentiation-inducing activity.

Next, the ES cell were cocultured with the respective cells fixed with p-formaldehyde.

Respective cells whose cell density reached an almost confluent by exchanging the medium in advance was washed twice with PBS(-) and then fixed by adding 4% p-formaldehyde solution and incubating it at 4°C for 30 minutes. Respective cells were produced by washing the fixed cells several times with PBS(-).

(0168)

The ES cell EB 5 was cocultured using each of the thus produced respective cells as a feeder cell according to the method described in Example 1. When the cells fixed using p-formaldehyde were used, differentiation of the ES cell into nerve cell was observed at a high ratio by coculturing with the PA6 cell, OP9 cell, NIH/3T3 cell, MEF cell or STO cell but was not observed by coculturing with the 3Y1 cell, COS cell, MDCK cell or CHO cell. It was found from these results that a group of stroma cells, namely PA6 cell, OP9 cell, NIH/3T3 cell, MEF cell and STO cell, have the nerve differentiation-inducing activity, and that this activity remains even when these cells are fixed using p-formaldehyde. Also, it was suggested that a mechanism for inhibiting

the nerve differentiation-inducing activity is removed by the p-formaldehyde treatment in the MEF cell and STO cell.

(0169)

Example 4 Analysis of activity of stroma cell to differentiate embryonic stem cell into nerve cell:

In order to analyze the activity of stroma cell to differentiate an embryonic stem cell into a nerve cell, an ES cell and a stroma cell were cocultured via a porous filter.

As the porous filter, a 6-well cell culture insert (product No. 3090, manufactured by FALCON) was used. The PA6 cell was cultured in the inner side of the cell culture insert, and the PA6 cell adhered on the filter was produced as a feeder cell according to the method described in Example 1.

(0170)

The ES cell EB5 suspended in the serum-free medium described in Example 1 was inoculated in 400 cells/well into a gelatin-coated 6-well culture dish (manufactured by FALCON), and the cell culture insert produced using the PA6 cell as a feeder cell was inserted into the wells, followed by culturing. That is, the ES cell EB5 inoculated onto the 6-well culture dish and the PA6 cell produced as a feeder cell inside the cell culture insert were cocultured via the filter membrane. Forth, sixth and seventh days after starting of culturing, the medium was exchanged using a fresh serum-free medium, and the cells were cultured at 37°C for 8 days in a stream of 5% carbon dioxide in a CO₂ incubator. Eight days after of coculturing, the medium was removed and the cells were fixed for 30 minutes by adding 4% p-formaldehyde solution. The thus fixed cells were immunologically stained according to the method described in *Using Antibodies*, Cold Harbor Laboratory Press (1999), using an antibody against a neuron-specific marker tubulin (manufactured by Babco). The formed ratio of tubulin-positive colonies was compared with that in culturing without using the filter, with the results shown in Fig. 6.

(0171)

When the PA6 cell and ES cell EB5 were cocultured via the filter (Fig. 6, Filter), 25% of the colonies were tubulin-positive. Although this proportion was about 1/3 of the efficiency in comparison with that in culturing without using the filter (Fig. 6, PA6), the nerve differentiation was significantly higher than that in culturing on gelatin without PA6 cell (Fig. 6, Gelatin, positive ratio 3% or less).

(0172)

Example 5 Analysis of intracerebral transplantation of embryonic stem cell differentiated into dopaminergic neuron:

According to the method described in Example 1, the ES cell EB5 was cultured for 10 days in the serum-free medium without BMP4 using the PA6 cell as a feeder cell. That is, the PA6 cell proliferated to an almost confluent on a 6 cm tissue culture dish was used as a feeder cell, the ES cell EB5 was inoculated onto the feeder cell at a density of 2,000 cells/dish, the medium was exchanged using a fresh serum-free medium on the 4th, 6th and 8th days, and the cells were cultured at 37°C for 10 days in a stream of 5% carbon dioxide in a CO₂ incubator.

The cells differentiation-induced as a result of culturing were fluorescence-labeled using a cell lineage tracer DiI (manufactured by Molecular Probe) according to the manufacture's instructions. After labeling, a papain-treatment was carried out at room temperature for 5 minutes using Papain Dissociation System Kit (manufactured by Worthington) according to the manufacture's instructions, and the formed ES cell-derived colonies were separated from the feeder cell almost as a mass (in this case, in order to avoid damage to nerve cells in the colonies, each colony formed by the differentiation induction was separated from the feeder cell as a mass of colonies as much as possible and used in the transplantation).

After inactivation of the enzyme using the papain inhibitor attached to the kit, a mass of the differentiation-induced ES cells was recovered by centrifugation at 300 rpm for 5 minutes. The mass of the differentiation-induced ES cells recovered from one 6 cm dish was suspended in 5 ml of N₂-added Glasgow MEM medium (manufactured by Gibco Lifetech) and used in the following transplantation.

(0173)

The transplantation and pharmaceutical injection were carried out according to the method described in *Current Protocols in Neuroscience* (John Wiley & Sons (1999)) 3.10. Each of C57BL/6 mice anesthetized with nembutal was fixed on a stereotaxic apparatus (manufactured by Narishige), and positions of the striate bodies were identified according to the method described in *The Mouse Brain in Stereotaxic Coordinates* (Academic Press (1997)). In order to destroy the topical dopamine nerve, 6-hydroxydopamine (2,4,5-trihydroxyphenethylamine)hydrobromide (hereinafter referred to as "6-OHDA") was dissolved in PBS at a concentration of 8 mg/ml and, using a micro-glass tube, injected into a position on the mouth side and a position on the tail side of either of the striate bodies, 4 ml of the resulting solution for each of the two positions. Three days thereafter, extrapyramidal signs in the injected side of several of

the mice were confirmed and then 2 ml of the suspension of ES cell mass differentiation-induced into nerve cells by the above method was injected into central region of the same side striate body, spending 4 minutes using a blunted 26G Hamilton syringe. Eight days after the 6-OHDA treatment, tissue samples were produced by perfusion-fixing the brain of each mouse and immunologically stained using an antibody against a dopaminergic neuron marker tyrosine hydroxylase (manufactured by Chemicon) and an antibody against dopamine transporter (manufactured by Chemicon). (0174)

In the group in which cell transplantation was not carried out by treating with 6-OHDA for destroying the dopamine nerve, nerve tissues expressing the tyrosine hydroxylase and dopamine transporter in the same side striate body were 40% or less of the normal tissues ($n = 6$). On the other hand, in the group in which transplantation of the differentiation-induced ES cell was carried out, the tyrosine hydroxylase- and dopamine transporter-expressing regions in the same side striate body were significantly recovered and became about 75% as a total ($n = 6$), mainly in the DiI-labeled grafts, so that recovery of the dopaminergic neuron by the transplantation was observed.

(0175)

(Effect of the invention)

The present invention provides a method for inducing differentiation of an ectodermal cell or a cell derived from an ectodermal cell selectively and efficiently from an undifferentiated stem cell, a cell differentiation-induced and use thereof.

(Brief description of the drawings)

(Fig. 1)

Fig. 1 is a microphotograph showing a result in which colonies formed by coculturing ES cell EB5 with PA6 cell are stained with antibodies against (A) NCAM, (B) tubulin and (C) nestin.

(Fig. 2)

Fig. 2 is a microphotograph showing a result in which colonies formed by coculturing ES cell EB5 with MEF cell are stained with anti-NCAM antibody.

(Fig. 3)

Fig. 3 is a microphotograph showing a result in which colonies formed by coculturing ES cell EB5 with PA6 cell are stained with an antibody against tyrosine hydroxylase.

(Fig. 4)

Fig. 4 is a graph showing periodical changes in the ratio of various marker positive colonies among colonies formed by coculturing ES cell EB5 with PA6 cell.

(Fig. 5)

Fig. 5 is a microphotograph showing a result in which colonies formed by coculturing ES cell EB5 with PA6 cell in the absence of BMP4 are stained with (A) an antibody against NCAM, (B) an antibody against nestin, (C) an antibody against E cadherin and (G) an antibody against keratin 14, and a result in which colonies formed by coculturing ES cell with PA6 cell in the presence of BMP4 are stained with (D) an antibody against NCAM, (E) an antibody against nestin, (F) an antibody against E cadherin and (H, I) an antibody against keratin 14.

(Fig. 6)

Fig. 6 is a graph showing a result in which colonies formed by coculturing ES cell EB5 with PA6 cell via a filter (filter) or not via a filter (PA6) or colonies formed by culturing ES cell EB5 on gelatin without PA6 cell (gelatin) are stained with an antibody against tubulin.

(Document name)

Drawings

FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3

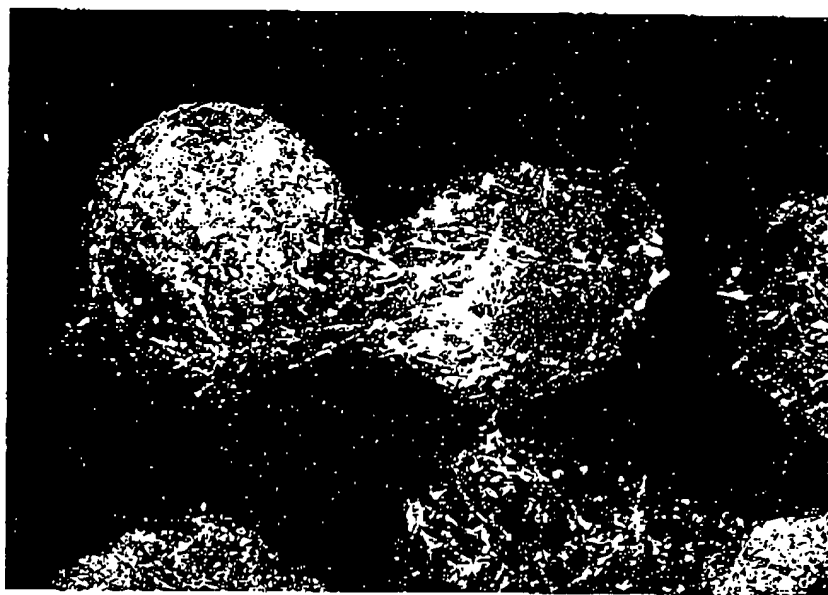


FIG. 4

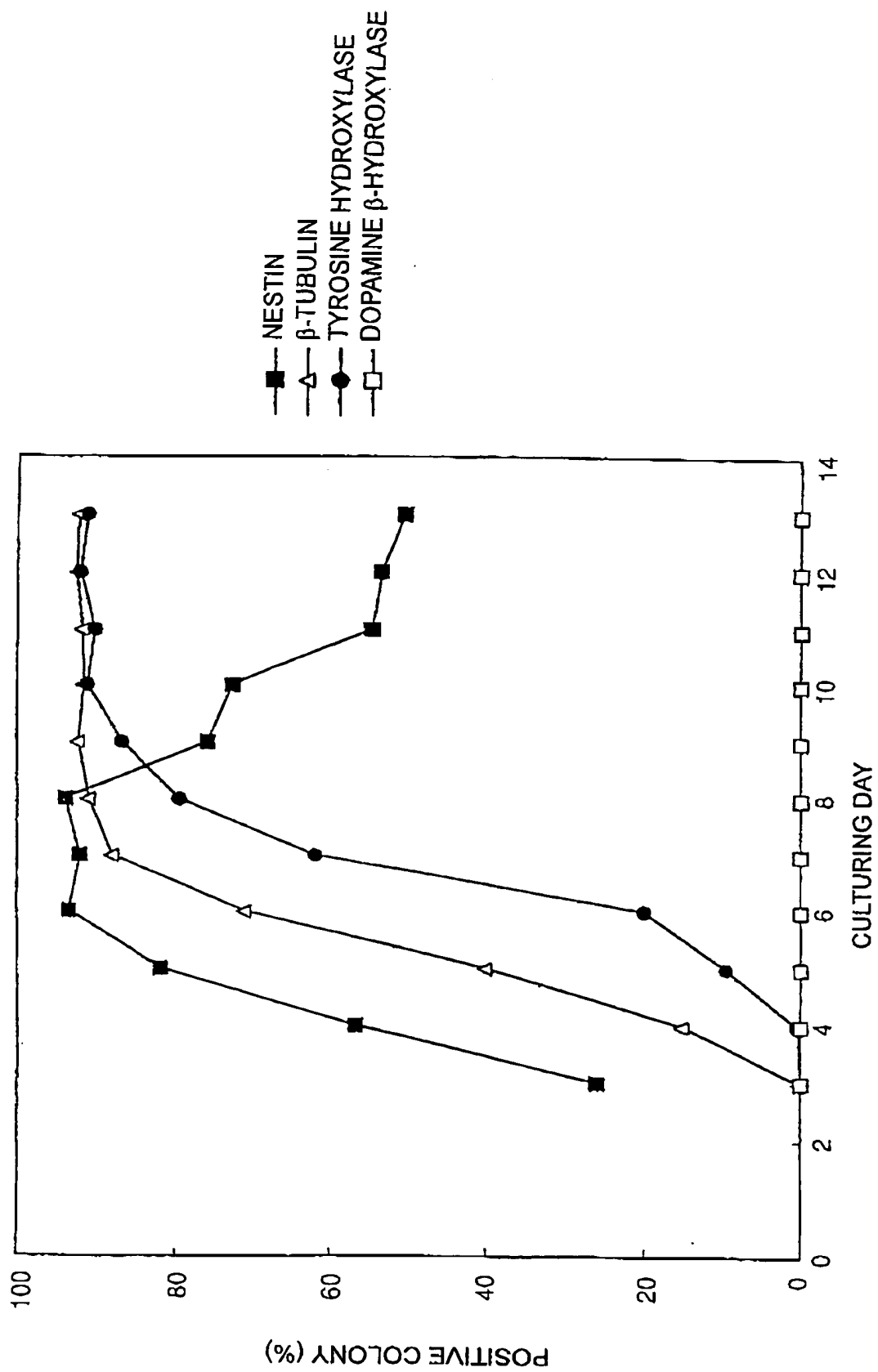


FIG. 5

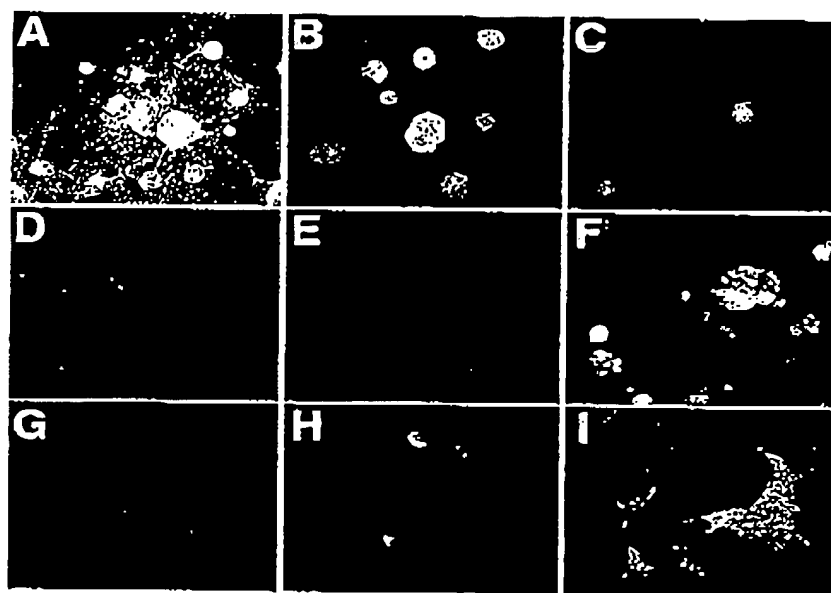
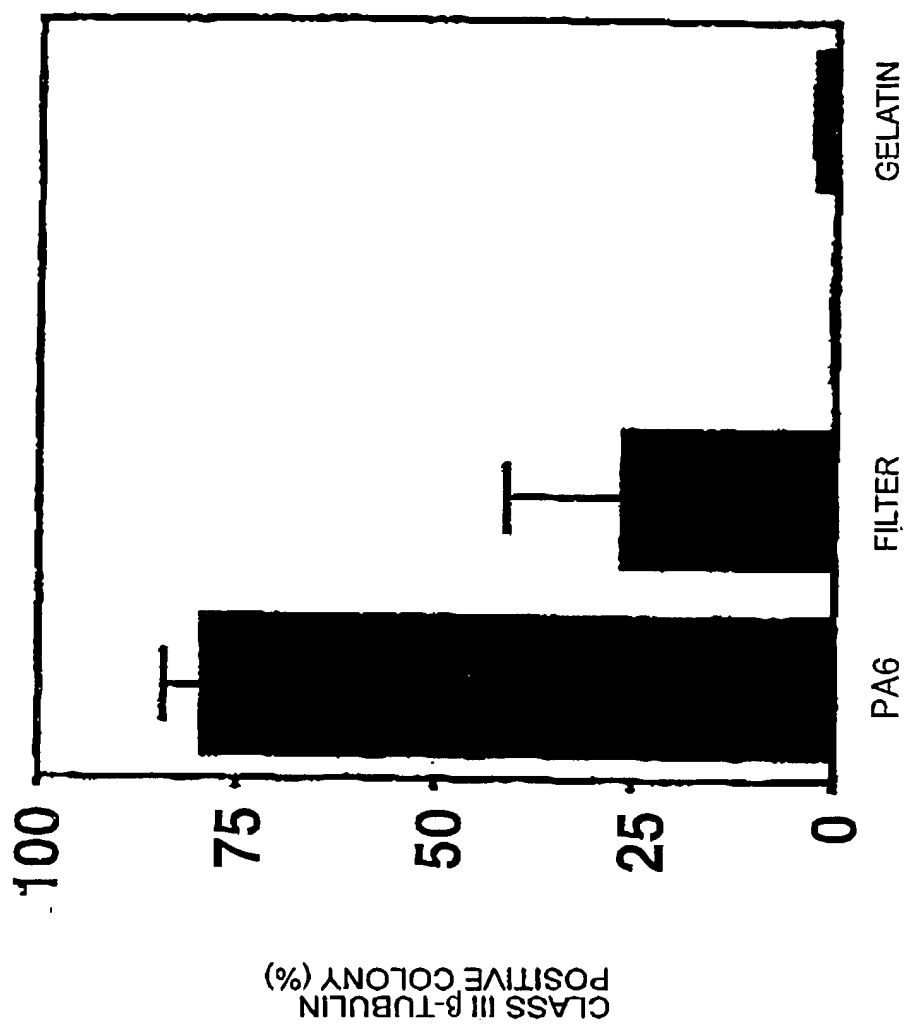


FIG. 6



(Document name)

Abstract

(Abstract)

(Problem)

It is to provide a method for inducing differentiation of an ectodermal cell and an ectoderm-derived cell, applicable to cell and organ transplantation for medical treatments, selectively and efficiently from an embryonic stem cell, the differentiation-induced cell, use thereof, a medium used in the method for differentiation induction, an antibody which specifically recognizes a stroma cell to be used in the differentiation induction process and a method for producing the antibody, an antibody obtained thereby, a method for obtaining an antigen recognized by the antibody, an antigen obtained thereby and use thereof.

(Means for solution)

The present invention relates to a method for inducing differentiation of an embryonic stem cell into an ectodermal cell, which comprises culturing the embryonic stem cell under non-aggregation conditions, and use thereof.

(Selected drawing)

None